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Feature Article – Counting the Cost – Part 1

by Charles H. Spurgeon

"For which of you, intending to build a tower, sits not down first, and counts the cost, whether he has sufficient to finish it? Lest haply, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him, saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish." Luke 14:28-30.

This passage is peculiar to Luke. He tells us that at the time when our Lord uttered it, great multitudes followed Him. It is observable that when our Lord was forsaken by the crowd, He was not depressed, and when His ministry became popular He was

not elated. He was calm and wise in the midst of the excitement of the thronging multitudes. This passage is sufficient evidence of that fact. On this occasion our Lord spoke with a view to the winnowing of the great heap of nominal discipleship which lay before Him, that the chaff might be driven away and only the precious corn might remain.

The discourse before us reminds us of Gideon's process of diminishing that vast but motley host of which the Lord said, "The people are too many for Me." After having bid the faint-hearted go, He next brought down the remaining thousands to the river and bade them drink. And then He only kept for Himself those



who lapped in a certain peculiar manner, which indicated their zeal, their speed, their energy and their experience. Our Lord tested His followers that He might have only those remaining who would be fit for the conquest of the world. To carry His precious treasure He would select vessels whom Divine Grace had made fit for His use—the rest He could dispense with. Our Lord Jesus was far too wise to pride Himself upon the number of His converts. He cared, rather, for quality than quantity. He rejoiced over one sinner that repented, but 10,000 sinners who merely professed to have repented would have given Him no joy whatever. His heart longed after the real. He loathed the counterfeit. He panted after the substance—the shadow could not content Him. His fan was in His hand with which to thoroughly purge His floor and His axe was laid to the root of the trees to hew down the fruitless. He was anxious to leave a living Church like good seedcorn in the land—as free as possible from all admixture.

Therefore in this particular instance one might even think that He was repelling men rather than attracting them to His leadership. But, indeed, He was doing nothing of the kind! He understood right well that men, to be truly won, must be won by truth—that the truest love is always honest, and that the best disciple is not he who joins the class of the great Master in a hurry, and then afterwards discovers that the learning is not such as he expected—but one who comes sighing after just such knowledge as the teacher is prepared to give. Moreover, our Lord knew what sometimes we may forget—that there is no heartbreak in the world to the godly worker like that which comes of disappointed hopes.

When those who have said, “Lord, I will follow You where ever You go,” turn back unto their evil ways. And when the hot breath which shouted, “Hosanna!” turns into the cruel, cold-blooded cry, “Crucify Him! Crucify Him,” nothing is more injurious to a Church than a large dilution with half-hearted members—and nothing more dangerous to the persons themselves than to allow them to put on an untrue profession. Therefore did the Master take most care at the time when that care was most needed, that none should follow Him under misapprehension, but should be made fully aware of what was meant by being His disciples, so that they should not say afterwards, “We have been misled. We have been beguiled into a service which disappoints us.” Unlike the enlisting sergeant, who sets forth all the glories of military service in glowing colors in order to gain a recruit, the great Captain of our salvation would have His followers take all things into consideration before they cast in their lot with Him. This morning our text may be equally suitable and its warning may be as necessary and as salutary as when first the Master pronounced it, for great multitudes are just now following Christ—a revival has come and stirred the mass of you. Among the would-be disciples (blessed be God!) are many whom the Lord Himself has called, for every one of whom we give most hearty thanks!

But with them, necessarily, (for when was it ever different?), there are others who are not called of God at all. They are moved by the natural impulse of imitating others and stirred by feelings which are, none the less, fleeting because just now they are intense. And therefore, in Christ’s name, it is ours to address you even as He did, and warn you in His own words—*“If any man comes to Me, and hates not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brother, and sisters, yes, and his own life, also, he cannot be My disciple. And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me, cannot be My disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, sits not down first, and counts the cost, whether he has sufficient to finish it? Lest haply, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him, saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish.”*

To assist our memories, we will divide our meditation into three parts. The first will be headed in this manner—true religion is a costly thing. The second shall bear this motto—Wisdom suggests that before we enter upon it we should estimate the cost. And the third shall bear this inscription—Cost what it may, it is worth what it costs.

I. First, then, it is clear from our text that TRUE RELIGION IS COSTLY. Far be it from us to create any confusion of thought here! The gifts of God’s Grace cost us nothing, neither could His salvation be purchased with money, nor with merit, nor by vows and penances. “If a man should give all the substance

of his house for love, it would utterly be condemned.” The Gospel motto is, “without money and without price.” We are “justified freely by His Grace, through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus.”

Yet, for all that, if a man will be a Christian it will cost him something. Consider a moment. Here is a blind man sitting by the wayside begging. He asks to have his eyes opened. Will it cost him anything? No, the Savior would not accept all the gold in the world for the cure! He will freely open his eyes. But when they are opened it will cost that blind man something! Obtaining his sight, he will be called upon to discharge the duties of one who has eyes. He will not be allowed, any longer, to sit there and beg, or, if he tries to do so, he will lose the sympathy which is bestowed upon blindness. Now that his eyes are opened he must use them, and earn his own bread. It will cost him something, for he will now be conscious of the darkness of the night which he knew nothing of before! And there are sad sights which now he must look upon which never grieved him before, for often what the eyes do not see, the heart does not know. A man cannot gain a faculty except at some expense. He that increases knowledge or the means of gaining it, increases both sorrow and duty. Take another case. A poor man is suddenly made a prince—it will cost him the giving up of his former manners—and will involve him in new duties and cares. A man is set on the road to Heaven as a pilgrim—does he pay anything to enter by the wicket gate? He does not. Free Grace admits him to the sacred way.

But when that man is put on the road to Heaven it will cost him something. It will cost him earnestness to knock at the wicket gate and sweat to climb the Hill Difficulty. It will cost him tears to find his roll again when he has lost it in the Arbor of Ease. It will cost him great care in going down the Valley of Humiliation. It will cost him resistance unto blood when he stands foot to foot with Apollyon in conflict. It will cost him many fears when he has to traverse the Valley of the Shadow of Death. It may cost him his life when he comes to Vanity Fair, if, like Faithful, he is called to bear testimony at the stake! True religion is the gift of God and there is nothing we can do to purchase it. But at the same time, if we receive it, certain consequences will flow from it—and we ought to consider whether we shall be able to put up with them. You may be sure that the cost must be great, since our Lord compares it to the building of a tower. The word here used for, “tower,” has often been employed to signify a turreted house, a villa, or country mansion. “Which of you,” says He to the people, “intending to build for himself a mansion in which to reside at your ease, would not first of all count the cost?” The building is to be a costly one!

Doddridge is wrong in the supposition that a temporary tower is here intended. That it would cost a considerable sum is clear from the Savior’s saying that the wise man sits down and counts the cost. He does not merely stand up and pass his hand over his brow and say, “This tower will cost me so many hundred pounds.” Since it is to be an elaborate construction, an almost palatial edifice, he sits down, like a merchant at his desk, and thoughtfully considers the undertaking. He consults the architect and the mason, and calculates what will be the expense of the outer walls, of the roof, of the interior fittings and the like. And he does not make a rough estimate, but counts the cost as men count their gold.

It is evidently a matter of consequence with him, and so is true religion—it is no trifle, but an all-important business. He who thinks that a careless, hit-or-miss, headlong venture will suffice for his eternal interests is the reverse of wise! True godliness is the building up of a character which will endure the Day of Judgment. It begins in laying deep the foundations in faith, love and a renewed heart. It is carried on by the putting patiently and carefully, and often painfully, stone upon stone, the materials of the fair edifice, diligently adding, “to your faith courage, and to courage knowledge, and to knowledge temperance, and to temperance patience, and to patience godliness, and to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness charity.”

Our lifework consists in “building up ourselves in our most holy faith.” Don’t you see that it is a glorious palace to which the Christian character is likened? But, lest we should still think the expense small, our Lord compares it to a war! He speaks of the number of troops engaged in that war, showing that it is no petty skirmish of two insignificant tribes. He likens it to a war in which, upon one side there is an array of 10,000,

and on the other a host of twenty thousand. Now, warfare is always expensive work—besides the cost for accoutrements and ammunition, there is the cost of human life and blood. There is the removal of strong arms from work at home and the direr risks of defeat, captivity and devastation.

The Lord compares religion, then, in its externals, to a battle between the gracious man and the evils rampant in the outside world. The disciple of Jesus has to defend himself against a gigantic foe and he has within himself a power which, so far as he is concerned, is not sufficient for the contest. The odds are fearful—10,000 against twenty thousand! Well does the Savior say in the latter case that it is well to sit down to consult. The king with the smaller army consults, asks his sage senators, takes counsel from experience, calls in good advisers and debates whether the thing can be done or not. So should we consider the matter of our souls, for religion is a costly thing and not to be entered on, as the Frenchman said, “with a light heart.” That light heart cost his nation dearly and so it will, ourselves, if we indulge it. We might have inferred this, I think, from some other considerations—namely from the fact that true religion is a lasting thing. It lasts for life. False religion comes and goes. True regeneration is never repeated and it is the commencement of a life which will loom no end, either in time or in eternity. Now anything which is to last must be expensive! You shall get your glass colored, if you will, cheaply, but the sun will soon remove all its beauty. If you would obtain a glass which shall retain its color for centuries, every single step in the process of its manufacture will be costly, involving much labor and great care. So is it with true religion. You may get it cheap if you will—it will look quite as well as the real thing and for a little while it will bring you almost all the comfort and respect which the genuine article would have brought you—but it will not last. Soon will its color fly and the beauty, the excellence which were there but in pretence, will soon have gone. You need, dear Friend, (I am sure you do), you need a godliness which will last you till you die! Well, then, it must cost you something, you can be sure of that.

Remember, also, that true religion will have to bear a strain, for it is certain to be opposed. This tower will not be built without opposition! It is like the wall of Jerusalem. Sanballat and Tobias will be sure to hinder the building. True religion must be able to endure hardness—if it cannot do that it is good for nothing. The old Toledo blade cost the warrior much at first hand, but when he has once procured it, he knows that it will cut through joint and marrow in the day of battle. Therefore he is not afraid to dash into the thick of the fray, trusting to its unrivalled temper and keen edge. Could he not find a cheaper sword? I think he could have found it easily enough, and with small expense of gold. But then, in the moment when his sword smote upon his enemy’s helmet, instead of cleaving through the skull, it would snap in the warrior’s hand and cost him his life! Such is the cheap religion with which so many take up. There is no self-denial in it, no forsaking of the world, no giving up of carnal amusements—they are just the same as the world—their religion costs them nothing and at last, when they need it, it will fail them—it will snap like the ill-made sword in the day of battle and leave them defenseless!

Oh, if you want that which will endure the conflict, you must pay a cost for it! Jesus Christ knew that the persons to whom He spoke would not be able to bear the tests which awaited His disciples. They did not know that He would be crucified, for just then He was popular, and they hoped that He was to be the King of Israel. But the Savior knew that there would come dark days in which the King of the Jews would be hanged upon a tree and His disciples, even His true ones, would forsake Him for the moment and would flee. And therefore He, in effect, said to them, “You must be prepared for cross-bearing. You must be prepared to follow Me amid derision and shame and reproach. And if you are not ready for this, your discipleship is a mistake!

In their case it did not stand the test. These people were nowhere to be found when the time of trial came. And remember, dear Friends—and I dwell with great emphasis upon this point—we need a religion which will abide the inspection of the Great Judge at the Last Day. Now, there are things in the world which will endure for a while, but if they are closely looked at, and especially if they are placed under a microscope, they will be seen to have many flaws. No microscopic examination can, for a moment, be compared with the glance of Jehovah! He will read us through and through. Oh, what a withering will there be for fair

professions in the day when His fiery eyes shall gaze upon them! Never does the grass dry up under the hot dry wind one-half as swiftly as the fair plains of pretended Christianity will wither beneath the Divine glance in the Last Tremendous Day! He will look upon what men call Christendom and it will almost, if not altogether, vanish for, “when the Son of Man comes, shall He find faith upon the earth?” Will it not, then, be evidently true that “many are called, and but few are chosen”? “Strive to enter in at the strait gate,” is still the voice of Christ to all of us, “for many shall seek to enter in, but shall not be able.” If our religion is to be weighed in the balances, and may, perhaps, be found wanting, it is well for us to see to it and to know that it must be sincere, genuine and costly if it is to pass that ordeal. What, then, is the expense? What is the cost of building this tower or fighting this war?

The answer is given by our Savior, not by me! I should not have dared to invent such tests as He has ordained! It is for me to be the echo of His voice and no more. What does He say? Why, first, that if you would be His and have His salvation, you must love Him beyond every other person in this world. Is not that the meaning of this expression, “If any man come to Me and hate not his father and mother”? Dear names! Dear names! “Father and mother!” Lives there a man with soul so dead that he can pronounce either of these words without emotion—and especially the last—“mother”? Brothers and Sisters, this is a dear and tender name to us—it touches a chord which thrills our being! Yet far more powerful is the name of Savior, the name of Jesus! Father and mother must be less loved than Jesus Christ! The Lord demands precedence, also, of the best beloved “wife.” Here he touches another set of heart-strings. Dear is that word, “wife,” partner of our being, comfort of our sorrow, delight of our eyes—“wife!” Yet, Wife, you must not take the chief place. You must sit at Jesus’ feet, or else you are an idol, and Jesus will not allow your rivalry. And “children,” the dear babes that nestle in your bosom and clamber to your knee and pronounce your name in accents of music—they must not be our chief love—they must not come in between us and the Savior. Nor, for their sakes, to give them pleasure or to promote their worldly advantage, must we grieve our Lord.

Many a son is master of his father. Many a daughter has been mistress to the mother. But if it is for evil, this must be ended at once! If they tempt us to evil they must be treated as if we hated them—yes, the evil in them must be hated for Christ’s sake! If you are Christ’s disciples your Lord must be first, then mother, father, wife, children, brothers, and sisters will follow in due rank and order. I am afraid that many professors are not prepared for this. They would be Christians if their family would approve, but they must consult their brother, father, or wife. They would make a stand against worldly pleasures if others would, but they cannot bear to appear singular, or to oppose the views of relatives. They say, “My father wishes it and I dare not tell him that it is wrong” “My mother says that we must not be too strait-laced and therefore, though my conscience tells me it is wrong, yet will I do it.” Or else they say, “My girls are growing up and must have amusement. My boys must be allowed their pleasures and therefore I must wink at sin.” Ah, my Brothers and Sisters, this must not be if you are, indeed, Christ’s disciples! You must put them all aside—the dearest must go sooner than Jesus be forsaken! Does He not say in the Psalms, “Hearken, O daughter, and consider, and incline your ear; forget also your own people, and your father’s house; so shall the King greatly desire your beauty: for he is your Lord; and worship you Him”?

Mark you, you will best prove your love to your relatives by being decided for the right, since you will be the more likely to win their souls. Love them too much to indulge the wrong in them! Love them so truly that you hate that in them which would injure you and ruin them! You must be prepared to suffer from those who are bound to you by the dearest ties. Sin must not be tolerated whatever may happen. We cannot yield in the point of sin—our determination is invincible—come hate or come love, we must follow Christ! The next item of cost is this—self must be hated. I am afraid there are some who would sooner hate father or wife than hate their own life. Yet such is the command. It means this—that when my own pleasure, or my own gain, or my own reputation, or even my own life shall come in the way of Christ’s Glory, I am too little to make any account of myself—that I must even hate myself if self shall stand in the way of Christ! I am to look upon father, mother, brother, sister and myself, also, as foes, so far as they are opposed to the Lord Jesus and His holy will! I am to love them and desire their good as I also desire good for myself, but I am not to desire any good for them or for myself at the cost of sinning and robbing the

Lord Jesus of His Glory. As for myself, if I see anything in myself opposed to Jesus I must do away with it. I must mortify the flesh with its affections and lusts, denying myself anything and everything which would grieve the Savior, or would prevent my realizing perfect conformity to Him.

Next, the Savior goes on to say that if we would follow Him we must bear our cross—"Whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple." Sometimes that cross comes in the shape of confessing our faith before gainsayers. "Ah," says the timid heart, "if I do so I shall have all my friends against me." Take up your cross! It is a part of the cost of true discipleship. "I shall scarcely be able to bear myself in the house if I avow my religion." Take up your cross! My Brother, unless you do, you cannot be Christ's disciple. "Well, but it will involve a change even in my daily life." Make the change, my Brother, or you cannot be the Lord's disciple. "But I know there is one very dear whom I have looked upon as likely to be my future companion—and he will leave me if I forsake the ways of the world." Then, heavy as the loss may be, let him go, my Sister, if it is so that you cannot follow Christ and unite with Him. You must follow Jesus, or be lost forever! What trying words these are! What detectors of the hypocrisy of many professing Christians! Did they ever separate from the world? No, not they—they fell in with its fashions as the dead fish floats with the current! Have they any cross to bear? Does anybody reproach them with being too rigid, and too puritanical? Oh, no! For theirs is the religion which the world praises and consequently the religion which God abhors! If any man loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him—and he who has the smile of the ungodly must look for the frown of God!

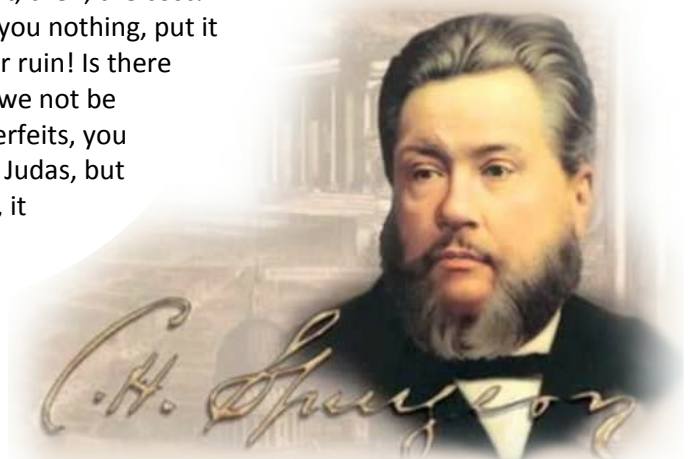
But, more than this, the Savior, as another item of cost, requires that His disciple should take up his cross and come after Him, that is to say, he must act as Christ acted. If we are not prepared to make Christ our example, yes, if it is not our highest ambition to live as He lived, to give ourselves up to act as He did, we cannot be His disciples. Last of all, we must make an unreserved surrender of all to Jesus. Listen to these words: "Whoever he is of you that forsakes not all that he has, he cannot be My disciple." It may yet come to this, that persecution may arise and you may actually have to give up all! You must be prepared for the event. You may not have to give up anything, but the surrender must be just as real in your heart as if it had to be carried out in act and deed. No man has truly given himself to Christ unless he has also said, "My Lord, I give to You this day my body, my soul, my powers, my talents, my goods, my house, my children and all that I have. Henceforth I will hold them at Your will, as a steward under You. Yours they are—as for me, I have nothing—I have surrendered all to You."

You cannot be Christ's disciples at any less expense than this—if you possess a farthing that is your own and not your Master's, Christ is not your Master! It must be all His, every single jot and tittle—and your life, also—or you cannot be His. These are very searching words, but I would remind you, once again, that they are not mine. If, in expounding them I have erred, I am grieved that it should be so. But I am persuaded I have not erred on the side of too much severity.

I confess I may have spoken too leniently. The words of the text lay the axe to the root and are sweeping to the last degree. Oh, count, then, the cost! And if any of you have taken up a religion which costs you nothing, put it down and flee from it, for it will be your curse and your ruin! Is there any getting to Heaven without this cost? No! But may we not be Christians without these sacrifices? You may be counterfeits, you may be hypocrites, you may be brothers and sisters of Judas, but you cannot be real Christians! This cost is unavoidable, it cannot be bated one solitary mite. God grant that you may be enabled to submit to it.

(to read the entire sermon go to:
www.spurgeongems.org)

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A Missions Trip to Nepal -

We just returned from a missions trip to Nepal. Bro. David Cloud and his wife Linda have been working at church planting in Nepal for many years. He asked if my wife and I would come to speak to several churches that were sharing in a missions conference. We were there for just over a week, and were blest to observe what the Lord is doing in that Hindu nation. Nepal has been, for almost two thousand years, a nation resistant to the gospel, whether under Hinduism or under the Maoists as at the present. Now there are an increasing number of churches that are pastored by Nepalese men with a

biblical vision of reaching their own people with the gospel. Bro. Hughie Seaborn will be assisting us in putting together a DVD that will describe what we saw there in Nepal. If any of the readers of Heads Up are interested in having a copy of the DVD, please write us at smiletex@bigpond.net.au and we will put your name on the list to receive a copy. There will be a small cost, probably only \$5 for packaging and postage.

Buddy and Susan Smith

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Christopher Hitchens

Unbelieving Arguments That Don't Add Up -

I'm getting ready to do several home improvement projects and to prepare I've been watching some how-to videos at youtube. Some kind of system at youtube causes unrelated videos to show up in the sidebar, and one popped up with Christopher Hitchens, the famous atheist, answering a question in one of his debates.

Hitchens, who died this last year of cancer, was well read and very talented rhetorically, yet unconvincing. Aristotle divided up persuasion into three aspects: ethos (character), logos (reasoning), and pathos (emotion). Hitchens utilized pathos very well. He didn't bring anybody with him, just entertained those already with him and made everyone else mad.

Since I live near Berkeley in the San Francisco Bay Area, I talk to atheists at a more regular clip than most, and if I get any to talk to me (they normally won't), there are a couple of typical lines of thought they take. One I had a couple of months ago. He was angry at the truth of one plan of

salvation. He didn't like the idea that Jesus was our only salvation and everyone else was condemned to Hell. I asked him if he would also be angry if there was only one cure for a deadly disease. Nope. That froze him. He couldn't work up the intensity over that. However, that "argument" is a typical atheist argument.

Salvation through Jesus Christ can't be true, the Bible can't be true, because there is no way that God should condemn people if they won't believe in Him. They're OK if "nature" condemns someone to death who won't take advantage of the one cure that's available. They have a bias against the God of the Bible. They start with rebellion as a default position.

Another popular Hitchens's screed I'd watched him give again and again with memorized talking points polished by multiple usages is one about the God of the Bible or Christianity taking away freedom and giving people only the one point of view. He likened God to Big Brother, the point being, of course, that if you didn't like Big Brother, then you wouldn't or shouldn't like the God of the Bible or Christianity.

Again, it's not really an argument that Hitchens offers, just a well-worded complaint. Complaining isn't an argument, except for liberals. I bring you back to pathos again, which works well in the era in which we live. Hitchens delivered his complaints with utter disdain of the God of the Bible and believers.

God is Who He is. He's told us Who He is. And He is God. We've got to accept the One, the actual One, the only One we've got. If you don't accept Him, it's not like you can go find another one you like better, when there's only one.

Hitchens simply offered the only alternative to the God of the Bible, what you liked better. Someone asked him what his purpose for life was, and I thought it was ironic, because it was in fact what Jesus said would be the purpose of any unbeliever, that being, eat, drink, and be merry, or in other words, no purpose. Hitchens wanted to eat, drink, and be merry, and get away with it. With the God of the Bible, he couldn't, so he just dismissed God. He couldn't complain and mock God out of existence any more than anyone could Hitchens.

Atheists like Hitchens resign themselves to all sorts of inevitability: death, pain, the common cold, headaches, gravity, sunburn, insect bites, dripping faucets, and traffic. In other words, a lot about their lives doesn't go like they want it to go. They choose to put up with a lot in order to keep living. But they won't put with God if He's sovereign. They won't be told what to do, even by their Creator.

Hitchens writes a book. He's the owner. Do you think he would put up with people using his creation for whatever or however they wanted? Of course not. He created it. He wrote it. It's his property. He's Big Brother over whatever it is he made. He's a bigger dictator over his own material than God is over what He made. He wouldn't stand for not doing what he wanted with his own property.

Like I said, the unbelieving arguments don't add up. They aren't true and that's also why they don't work. It's God's world. He created us, and that's why even unbelievers act like Him, and then they complain when He acts like Him. God is justified in how He acts and on most occasions unbelievers aren't justified in how they behave. But they feel entitled to act as His judge.

We are God's. That was an argument that Jesus made when He said 'render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's and unto God the things that are God's.' Caesar's image was on the Roman coin, so Caesar could require taxation.

God's image is on us, so He can require submission to Him. We should assume that we're better off doing what He said. And even if we don't assume that, it's still true.

Kent Brandenburg

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Posters That Preach -



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How Far Does Their Compromise Take New Evangelicals? -



(Ed. - Our son recently sent me this link to a video about evangelical ministers that gamble in casinos to support themselves. They use a system that can beat the casino often enough for them to take home quite a bit of money. That is, until the casino owner spots them and kicks them out. From the time new evangelicalism began in the late 1940's with Bill Bright, Billy Graham, Harold Lindsay, and Harold Ockenga at Fuller Seminary, the movement has followed a path of continual compromise. So, though it is sad to see "pastors" justifying their gambling and greed, we who have a biblical perspective are not at all surprised. Compromise with the world, the Devil, and the flesh is like drugs. In order to get the high you got the last time, you have to use something bigger. Like gambling in a casino to support your ministry (?))

<http://www.abc.net.au/iview/#/program/28080>

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Psalm 3:6

"In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."



Blinded Minds -

More Brits Believe in Aliens Than in God, Survey Claims

By Anugrah Kumar, Christian Post Contributor
October 21, 2012

The number of those who believe in extraterrestrial life is significantly higher than those who believe in God in the United Kingdom, a survey commissioned by a new alien-themed video game claims.

The survey, for which the "XCOM: Enemy Unknown" videogame hired market research agency Opinion Matters to conduct, suggests that 52 percent of U.K. adults believe UFO evidence has been covered up because widespread knowledge of their existence

would threaten government stability, as opposed to 44 percent who say they believe in God.

Around 10 percent of the country also claims to have seen a UFO, with almost a quarter more men claiming to have done so than women, the survey indicated. It also suggested that about 20 percent of the country believes UFOs have landed, while over 5 million U.K. residents believe the Moon landings were faked.

Opinion Matters, which surveyed 1,359 U.K. adults, says the results are representative of the population in the U.K.

"Yes, it has been done with an independent panel through a bonafide research company," says Karen Brooks, managing director of Opinion Matters. "Surveys can be done face-to-face, over the telephone and online. This one was a U.K. adult sample, which is quite broad, and doing it online is a quick, effective way of getting to that audience," she continued. "We make sure that all of the questions are compliant from a research perspective."

Nick Pope, formerly of the British Government's Ministry of Defense UFO Project, said he believes the survey results. "Just 20 years ago, religion was a huge part of life in the U.K., and this shows just how much attitudes have changed," he told atvtoday.co.uk. "Belief in the alien phenomenon is now more widespread than ever, with many wondering how we and our governments would react to the news that aliens existed."

However, Alistair Macdonald-Radcliff, an Anglican priest, told Huffington Post that he is "inherently skeptical about what these statistics tell you, and particularly if there's a narrow, selective base."

Macdonald-Radcliff, director general of the World Dialogue Council and who has worked with statistics on religion, added that "the failure to define what they're asking people to believe here is a fairly critical failure for the survey. Because you've already set out quite a variety of possibilities as to what they might or might not suppose UFOs to be. I certainly think sliding extraterrestrial and UFO together is a particularly messy thing to do."

Read more at <http://www.christianpost.com/news/more-brits-believe-in-aliens-than-in-god-survey-claims-83663/#wTAvIYCT0jyYVRGu.99>

Oprah Winfrey Inspired by Islamic and Buddhist Faiths, Admits to Reading Daily Sufi Word

By Christine Thomasos , Christian Post Reporter

October 16, 2012

Oprah Winfrey recently shared her morning routine with Harper's Bazaar magazine which includes a breakfast of fruit and almond milk, a workout and inspiration from Sufism, or Islamic mysticism.

Winfrey told the publication that she wakes up at around 5:45 a.m. and reads a passage from TheDailyLove.com and The Bowl of Saki, which she describes as "like the Sufi daily word." Although the 58-year-old media proprietor has been vocal about reading the Bible and being a Christian in the past, she has also spent time speaking about Sufism lately.

Last August, Winfrey interviewed author and Sufi teacher Llewellyn Vaughan-Lee for OWN's "Super Soul Sunday" program. On her network's YouTube page, she labeled a preview to the show as "Oprah's Interest in Sufism" and tweeted about her love for the spiritual belief. "Love Sufism ...'the divinity of the human soul,'" Winfrey tweeted last September. "Within Our spiritual heart there is a direct connection to God."



According to the New Oxford American Dictionary, "Sufism is the esoteric dimension of the Islamic faith, the spiritual path to mystical union with God. It is influenced by other faiths, such as Buddhism, and reached its peak in the 13th century."

While Winfrey recently admitted to an interest and daily reading of a Sufi daily word, she has maintained that she is a practicing Christian. During a broadcast of "Oprah's Lifeclass" program in April, Winfrey spoke about her Christianity while having respect for all faiths.

"I am a Christian, that is my faith. I'm not asking you to be a Christian. If you want to be one I can show you how. But it is not required," she said on the broadcast. "I have respect for all faiths. All faiths. But what I'm talking about is not faith or religion. I'm talking about spirituality." In the episode about "Spiritual Solutions" which featured new age spiritual leader Deepak Chopra, Winfrey also described her definition of spirituality. "My definition [of spirituality] is living your life with an open heart, through love... allowing yourself to align with the values of tolerance, acceptance, of harmony, of cooperation and reverence for life," Winfrey said. "There is a force energy consciousness divine thread, I believe, that connects spiritually to all of us, to something greater than ourselves."

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/oprah-winfrey-inspired-by-islamic-and-buddhist-faiths-admits-to-reading-daily-sufi-word-83403/>

Ohio Megachurch Dedicates New 52-Foot Jesus Statue

By Anugrah Kumar, Christian Post Contributor

October 1, 2012

A megachurch in southwest Ohio dedicated a new statue of Jesus on Sunday that replaces the iconic sculpture known as "Touchdown Jesus" that burned down after being struck by lightning in 2010. The Solid Rock Church in Monroe, Ohio, celebrated the construction of the new "Lux Mundi" (The Light of the World)

statue off Interstate 75 in a special service on Sunday evening. "It's a big, big event for us.... it's been over 2 years, it's been a long process. But, we're very pleased with the final product. Peoples' reaction has been very positive for us. So it's a great day," wpc.com quoted church administrator Ron Carter as saying.



The new statue is designed by Japanese-American sculptor Tom Tsuchiya, who is with Design Dynamics, Inc. "Ultimately, I hope Lux Mundi will be a constant reminder for all of us to get along with each other," Tsuchiya was quoted as saying. The Lux Mundi statue depicts a full body Jesus with arms outstretched walking on the lake in front of Solid Rock's sanctuary. Because it has its arms reaching forward, bearing a resemblance to the football referee's signal, and not towards the sky, some referred to it also as "Touchdown Jesus." In 2010, a storm ripped through the area and a

bolt of lightning struck the previous statue built in 2004. All that remained of "Touchdown Jesus" was a heavily damaged iron frame. "When it got burnt down, people looked at it in different ways," church member Nick Isbel was quoted as saying. "Some people left the church, they thought it was a bad sign. That this was a bad place to be. Other people saw it as a good sign. It's the most that Jesus has been in the news for a while, so. It being rebuilt just puts it on people's minds and in people's hearts." "The materials used for the [new] statue are all fire rated and we have installed a lightning suppression system as an integral part of the statue," Carter said last month. "If the statue is struck by lightning, I'm told there will be damage at the point of the strike, but the statue should not burn." At Sunday's service, the church also honored Pastor Lawrence Bishop, who spearheaded construction of the original Jesus statue and who died last year.

Church members were excited about the new statue. "We're happy to see the statue going up tonight. All of this is just allowing us to remind people of Jesus and that's all it is," said Al Slaughter from Fairfield. However, there was a church protest before the dedication service. About half a dozen of protesters carrying a bullhorn and signs demonstrated in front of the church gate, saying they are Christians who are against idol worship.

Solid Rock Church has about 4,000 members and two campuses for worship. It is led by Pastor Darlene Bishop.

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/ohio-megachurch-dedicates-new-52-foot-jesus-statue-82462/>



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Jamie Foxx Calls Obama 'Our Lord And Savior' During Awards Show

by Noah Rothman

November 26th, 2012

Actor and musician Jamie Foxx called President Barack Obama 'our lord and savior' during his appearance on the Soul Train Awards 2012 on Sunday in Las Vegas, Nevada.

"It's like church over here. It's like church in here. First of all, give an honor to God and our lord and savior Barack Obama. Barack Obama," Foxx joked.

The Oscar award-winning Foxx has been a longtime supporter of President Obama's and publicly advocated for his re-election during the 2012 campaign season.



<http://www.mediaite.com/tv/jamie-foxx-calls-obama-our-lord-and-savior-during-awards-show/>



New Zealand Grants Legal Personhood Rights -- To A River

I keep warning that this "nature rights" movement is beginning to bite, and people keep rolling their eyes. But New Zealand just granted rights to a river.

From the New Zealand Herald story: "Meet the Whanganui. You might call it a river, but in the eyes of the law, it has the standings of a person. In a landmark case for the Rights of Nature, officials in New Zealand recently granted the Whanganui, the nation's third-longest river, with legal personhood 'in

the same way a company is, which will give it rights and interests.' The decision follows a long court battle for the river's personhood initiated by the Whanganui River iwi, an indigenous community with strong cultural ties to the waterway. Under the settlement, the river is regarded as a protected entity, under an arrangement in which representatives from both the iwi and the national government will serve as legal custodians towards the Whanganui's best interests. A corporation and other juridical entities have rights because they are human associations. It is the human aspect that matters."

A river is a waterway. It doesn't have "best interests." It is not a rights bearing being because it isn't a "being" at all. This is really a recognition of nature religion into law.

If the river needed protecting, protect it by creating conservation and environmental standards. Nature rights is very subversive to human freedom and exceptionalism. People are playing with very dangerous and anti-human concepts here and they think they are being progressive. Well, I guess politically, they are.

<http://www.lifenews.com/2012/09/10/new-zealand-grants-legal-personhood-rights-to-a-river/?pr=1>

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Cartoons For The Wise -



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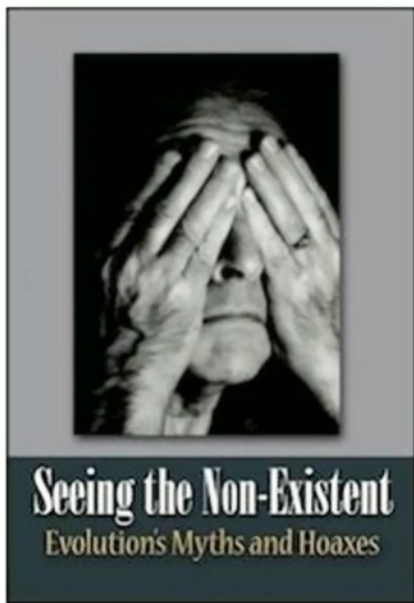
Deacon True Sez -

Our church is lookin' for a new preacher. We had one out from the seminary the other day. He dived down deeper and stayed down longer and came up drier than anybody we ever heard. What ever happened to the prophets that worked all week gathering kindlin' wood so they could build a fire in the pulpit that would last all week and set the saints on fire?

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My Father's Fingerprints -

The following is excerpted from *SEEING THE NON-EXISTENT: EVOLUTION'S MYTHS AND HOAXES*. The contents are as follows: Canals on Mars, Charles Darwin and His Granddaddy, Thomas Huxley: Darwin's Bulldog, Ernst Haeckel: Darwin's German Apostle, Icons of Evolution, Icons of Creation, The Ape-men, Predictions, Questions for Evolutionists, Darwinian Gods, Darwin's Social Influence. The **ICONS OF EVOLUTION** that we refute include mutations, the fossil record, homology, the peppered moth, Darwin's finches, the fruit fly, vestigial organs, the horse series, the embryo chart, the Miller experiment, Archaeopteryx, bacterial resistance, the big bang, and billions of years. The **ICONS OF CREATION** that we



examine include the monarch butterfly, the trilobite, the living cell, the human eye, the human brain, the human hand, blood clotting, the bird's flight feather, bird migration, bird song, harmony and symbiosis, sexual reproduction, living technology, the dragonfly, the bee, and the bat. The section on [APE-MEN](#) deals with Cro-Magnon, Neanderthal, Java Man, Piltdown Man, Nebraska Man, Peking Man, Lucy, Ardi, Ida, among others. The section on [PREDICTIONS](#) considers 29 predictions made by Biblical creationism, such as the universe will behave according to established laws, the universe will be logical, and there will be a vast unbridgeable gulf between man and the animal kingdom. [DARWINIAN GODS](#) takes a look at inventions that evolutionists have devised to avoid divine Creation, such as panspermia and aliens, self-organization, and the multiverse.

608 pages. Print edition \$24.95, eBook edition (Kindle, PDF, ePUB) \$14.95 (available from the Way of Life online catalog, www.wayoflife.org)

The bat is so amazing that even atheistic evolutionist Richard Dawkins admits that it has every sign of intelligent design:

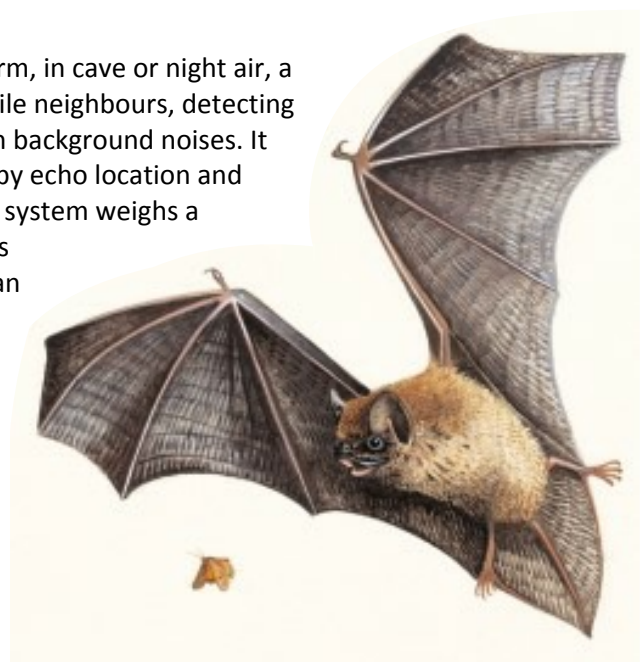
"These bats are like miniature spy planes, bristling with sophisticated instrumentation. Their brains are delicately tuned packages of miniaturized electronic wizardry, programmed with the elaborate software necessary to decode a world of echoes in real time. Their faces are often distorted into gargoyle shapes that appear hideous to us until we see them for what they are, exquisitely fashioned instruments for beaming ultrasound in desired directions" (Dawkins, *The Blind Watchmaker*, p. 24).

Because of his willful spiritual blindness, Dawkins can write about sophisticated instrumentation, delicately tuned packages, elaborate software, and exquisitely fashioned instruments, and then turn around and claim that it was all evolved by blind forces of chance.

Adam Pitman remarks:

"This sonar is a marvellous discriminator: in a bat-swarm, in cave or night air, a bat can know its own sound among thousands of mobile neighbours, detecting its own signals even if they are 2000 times fainter than background noises. It can 'see' prey, such as a fruit-fly, up to 100 feet away by echo location and catch four or five in a second. And this whole auditory system weighs a fraction of a gram! Ounce for ounce, watt for watt, it is millions of times more efficient and more sensitive than the radars and sonars contrived by man" (Pitman, *Adam and Evolution*, p. 219).

The bat's rate of pulse changes. The brown bat pulses at about 10 per second as it is cruising, but this quickens when it detects an insect and begins to intercept it. The pulses can reach 200 per second. This means that the bat's brain is capable of performing incredible amounts of mathematical calculations almost instantly.



Some bats have muscles that enable it to dampen its ear mechanism while it is transmitting its radar pulses. "The muscles contract immediately before the bat emits each outgoing pulse, therefore switching the ears off so that they are not damaged by the loud pulse. Then they relax so that the ear returns to maximal sensitivity just in time for the returning echo. This send/receive switching system works only if split-second accuracy in timing is maintained. The bat called Tadarida is capable of alternately contracting and relaxing its switching muscles 50 times per second, keeping in perfect synchrony with the machine gun-like pulses of ultrasound" (Dawkins, pp. 27, 28).

Many bats produce a sound that changes pitch. It is basically a high-pitched shriek that sweeps down about an octave. This technique is used in modern radar and is called "chirp radar." This gives the bat even more sophisticated ability to distinguish between returning echoes. Since its emissions begin at a higher pitch, its brain knows that if a returning echo is a higher pitch it is from a more distant object. "When an echo from a distant object finally arrives back at the bat, it will be an 'older' echo than an echo that is simultaneously arriving back from a near object. It will therefore be of higher pitch. When the bat is faced with clashing echoes from several objects, it can apply the rule of thumb: higher pitch means farther away" (Dawkins, p. 29).

Consider the amazing intelligence, though, that is required for a bat to apply such a "rule of thumb"!

The bat is found in the fossil record perfectly formed from the very beginning. The following quotes are from scientists who were interviewed for the book *Evolution: The Grand Experiment* (volume 1) by Dr. Carl Werner:

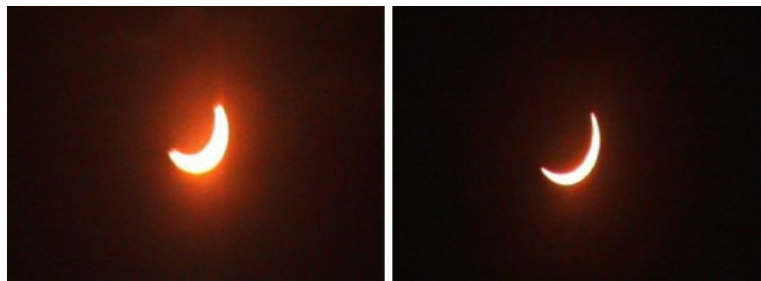
"There's a ten-million-year period of early mammal evolution where you would guess that there'd be some sort of bat precursor, but once again, nothing. Bingo, they just show up" (Dr. Gary Morgan, Assistant Curator of Paleontology, New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science and a specialist in bat evolution).

"We have no evidence for this evolution. The bats appear perfectly developed in the Eocene" (Dr. Gunter Viohl, Curator of the Jura Museum in Eichstatt, Germany).

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Beyond Our Comprehension!

Psalm 19:1, *"The heavens declare the Glory of God, and the firmament showeth His handiwork."*

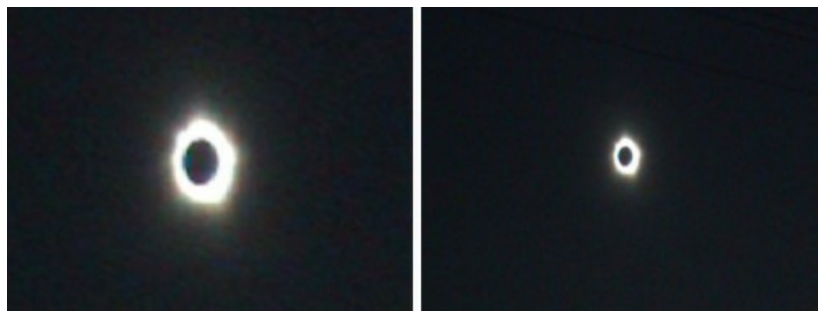


Has your mind ever "boggled" ? In Australia we have this saying ("It boggles the mind!"), and it simply means that your thinking has been totally overpowered, and common logic has gone out the door.

For many (who love the Lord) and had the opportunity recently to stand and witness for themselves the Solar Eclipse in far north Queensland, this was possibly your experience, as it was for my wife and me.

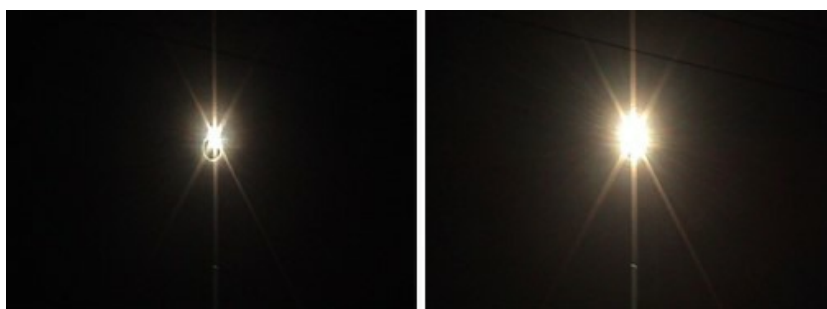
Even though for months the media has tried to explain exactly what was going to happen, it was beyond our comprehension as in awe we stood to witness one of the great demonstrations of the power of our wonderful God. To witness OUR God holding these two celestial bodies in His hands and gently, ever so gently, passing one in front of the other, out there in outer space, is simply mind-boggling! During the days of creation, Genesis 1-16, God called the lights that He had created "GREAT LIGHTS." If God called them great, how big are they in our understanding?

The astronomers tell us that the sun has approximately 110 times larger diameter than the earth's, and 400 times larger than the moon's. It is 400 times further away from us than the moon. The moon is 384,000 kilometres from earth. The sun is 150,000,000 kilometres from earth. Therefore, the moon looks the same size to us as the sun. We have problems trying to comprehend how large our island of Australia is, let alone thinking about how large earth is. This all fades into insignificance when we try to picture the sun and the billions of stars and galaxies out there in space. Now to really confuse us all, the moon's diameter is 400 times less than the sun's diameter.



In simple terms, God blots out the sun with a moon 400 times smaller than the sun, and 400 times closer to us than the sun. Is your mind starting to get a little "boggled"?

Pat and I viewed the eclipse from only the very southern limits of total coverage and saw only seconds of full coverage. It is very difficult to describe the minutes leading up to coverage, and the moment the sun broke clear again. This event had to be seen through the eyes of God. What I mean by that is, there is no possible way of comprehending such an event without knowing the God of creation, without believing that He is there holding both those celestial objects in His hands, floating them past one another in outer space, just at the right distances from one another, and from us, to cause a total eclipse here in North Queensland.



Psalm 19 reveals much truth about God. "The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament showeth His handiwork." As we stood and watched and meditated on this verse, we were overwhelmed with the immensity of what was happening. The God who loves me is doing this. This is the God who sent His only Son to die for me. This is the God who hung on the cross of Calvary, took my place, and died my death. He alone is worthy to be praised! Is He your God?

As the sun began to break through the darkness, I envisaged the Lord's coming. 1 Thessalonians 4-16, "For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven, with a shout" I don't know if there will be lights bursting forth, but I do know the Light of the world is coming again. And He's coming for me, "Hallelujah".

The moment when the sun emerged was unexplainable even by someone who had seen the event through God's eyes. The video clips taken with my video camera are unsteady as the excitement overcame me. "Will I see Jesus coming in the air one day soon?" If I don't and God takes me home first, then the excitement and nearness of God during this eclipse has been indescribable.

May I conclude by asking the question, "HOW BIG IS YOUR GOD? Is He big enough to bring about this eclipse? Is He big enough to save you from an eternity in Hell? IS HE BIG ENOUGH to take care of all your needs, your spiritual needs, your daily needs, your family's needs?" Oh, we see the god of alcohol, drugs, sport and many other things take over the lives of people around the world today, but what about you? Who is your God and HOW BIG IS HE?

The very sad thing is that your God is only as big as you will let him be in your life. Our God and Heavenly Father will not push His way into our lives. It is up to us by faith to let Him take control, let Him be the "BIG GOD HE IS.

Are you battling with sin? Have you the victory through Christ? He is BIG enough. Yes, He is big enough to float the moon before the sun and blot it out. HOW BIG IS YOUR GOD IN YOUR LIFE?

Kevin & Pat Milson

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The Influence of the Beatles -

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/culture/music/the-beatles/9355271/The-Beatles-responsible-for-recreational-drug-use-increase.html> - While Russia's anti-drug agency has spoken out against the danger of drugs, it's leader Vladimir Putin says he's a fan of the Beatles. Paul McCartney performed in Red Square in 2003. Sadly, a great number of CCM musicians still list the Beatles in a positive light, and currently subject themselves to steady doses of their music. - *Jeff Royal*



The Beatles 'responsible for recreational drug use increase'

By Tom Parfitt, Moscow

BST 25 Jun 2012

The Beatles were responsible for a worldwide increase in recreational drug use which continues to harm young people, Russia's top anti-narcotics official has claimed.

Yevgeny Bryun told a press conference in Moscow that the consequences of the Fab Four's propaganda in the 1960s were still being felt.

"After The Beatles went to expand their consciousness in India ashrams, they introduced that idea – the changing of one's psychic state of mind using drugs – to the population," he said. "When business understood that you could trade on that – on pleasure and goods associated with pleasure – that's probably where it all began." Mr Bryun said tough measures were needed to combat mass culture and advertising which promoted drug use today.

The Beatles experimented with various narcotics and Sir Paul McCartney admitted in 2004 that much of their music was "informed" by drugs. He said the song "Got To Get You Into My Life" was "about pot" while "Day Tripper" was about acid. "Lucy In The Sky With Diamonds" famously referred to LSD.

Beatles music was banned as an iniquitous western intrusion in the Soviet Union, when the state record manufacturer Melodiya said "musicians such as these, who have plunged to the depth of musical decline, do not deserve a place on Soviet records".

However, Russia's president, Vladimir Putin, is a fan of the group and met Sir Paul when he performed "Back in the USSR" and other tunes on Red Square in 2003.

The following is from *The Directory of Contemporary Worship Musicians* available at the Way of Life web site in three eBook formats. http://www.wayoflife.org/free_ebooks/

Beatles and CCM

One of the reasons why we are opposed to Contemporary Christian Music is its worldliness, its refusal to separate from the world. Contemporary Christian musicians make no attempt to hide the fact that they love secular rock & roll and they have no shame for doing so. When asked in interviews about their musical influences and their favorite music, invariably they list some raunchy secular rock musicians. And one of the rock groups that CCM musicians love is the Beatles.

When **MATT REDMAN**, one the most influential names in the contemporary worship movement, was asked in 2011, "Who are your musical influences?" he replied: "All sorts. But all time favorite must be the Beatles. I love it now that my five kids even get into their music"

(<http://www.louderthanthemusic.com/document.php?id=2526>). It is obvious that Redman is rearing his children on secular rock & roll so that they have a taste for the world even at very young ages.

In a May 1987 interview with CCM Magazine, **LESLIE PHILLIPS** said: "[In the 1987 album *The Turning*] I just sort of returned to what I loved originally. You know, returning to your roots and all that. The Beatles were the first rock group I remember hearing, and I dearly love them. They were spectacular, even in their mistakes. There was a spirit in that kind of music that we don't have today."

PHIL KEAGGY performs an unholy combination of secular rock and Christian rock/folk, and those who listen to his music are drawn toward worldly rock & roll. On his 1993 *Crimson and Blue* album, for example, he pays "homage to the Beatles" with several of the songs. In a June 2008 interview Keaggy said that performing at the wedding of Linda McCartney's sister and jamming with Paul McCartney is one of his most

cherished memories ("Reconnecting with Phil Keaggy," Crosswalk.com, June 25, 2008). Keaggy's 2011 CD "Live from Kegwood Studio" features "homage to George Harrison with a spot-on rendition of the Beatles' hit 'Here Comes the Sun.'"

CAEDMON'S CALL often performs Beatles music.

RANDY STONEHILL says that it was the Beatles who gave him the inspiration to play rock and roll: "Really it was after I saw the Beatles. I saw them on television when I was twelve and I knew that that was what I wanted to do" (Stonehill, cited by Devlin Donaldson, "Life Between the Glory and the Fame," CCM Magazine, October 1981).

The **GALACTIC COWBOYS** lead singer says, "I'd have to say that The Beatles are still the biggest influence on us, all the way around--except for maybe the guitar tones. They were great songwriters and vocalists" (Ben Huggins, cited by Dan Macintosh, HM magazine, September-October 1998).

Some of **DC TALK'S** musical role models are the Beatles, David Bowie, and The Police, all of which are wicked secular rock groups (Flint Michigan Journal, March 15, 1996). dc Talk opened its "Jesus Freak" concerts with the Beatles' song "Help." During their 1999 "Supernatural Experience" tour, dc Talk performed "Hello Good-bye" by the Beatles (CCM Magazine, April 1999, p. 55).

JARS OF CLAY names Jimi Hendrix and the Beatles as their inspiration (Dann Denny, "Christian Rock," Sunday Herald Times, Bloomington, Ind., Feb. 8, 1998). The lead guitarist for Jars of Clay is said to be a "Beatles fanatic" (Christian News, Dec. 8, 1997).

MAYFAIR LAUNDRY, a group which got its name from a scene in a Beatle's movie, cites influences from the Beatles to Red Hot Chilli Peppers (Heaven's Metal Magazine, May-June 1998).

JOHN MICHAEL TALBOT performed Beatles songs during concerts in the late 1990s.

The "Heart of David Conference on Worship & Warfare," sponsored by **Rick Joyner's** Morning Star ministries, concluded with the praise team singing the Beatles song "I Want to Hold Your Hand" as if God were singing it to believers. The worship leaders were Leonard Jones, Kevin Prosch, and Suzy Wills.

THE ROCK 'N' ROLL WORSHIP CIRCUS' musical style is "reminiscent of rock's glory days" and "combines the best elements of classic seventies style power pop ala David Bowie, The Kinks and Cheap Trick, Pink Floyd, The Beatles and U2" (from their web site).

During the Feb. 18, 2002, premier show for **MICHAEL W. SMITH'S** Come Together Tour, THIRD DAY took the stage to the strains of the New Age Beatles song "Come Together" (press release, Nashville, April 24, 2002).

In his musings on Contemporary Christian Music of October 2, 2002, **RUSS BREIMEIER** (co-director of ChristianityToday.com music channel) exalts the Beatles. He describes his attendance at a Paul McCartney concert in the following terms: "Last week, I also fulfilled one of my lifelong dreams ... and got to see Sir Paul McCartney in concert. What an incredible show! ... It was simply awesome to hear 20,000+ people sing along to 'Let It Be,' surrounding a beautifully lit stage." There was not a word of warning about the wicked influence the Beatles have had upon society for the past 45 years or about their anti-christ blasphemies. Consider the words to this "simply awesome" song "Let It Be" -- "When I find myself in times of trouble/ Mother Mary comes to me/ Speaking words of wisdom, let it be./ And in my hour of darkness/ She is standing right in front of me/ Speaking words of wisdom, let it be. ... Whisper words of wisdom, let it be." That's awesome, indeed; it's awesome apostasy!

One of the members of VOX79, the worship band at a conference at **WILLOW CREEK COMMUNITY CHURCH**, February 2007, was pictured wearing a Beatles t-shirt on the Willow Creek web site (<http://www.willowcreek.com/events/student/schedule.asp>).

A video that contains a graphical slide show from an Argentina missionary trip by SADDLEBACK CHURCH members features John Lennon's atheistic song "Imagine." The trip, made August 1-12, 2006, was part of Rick Warren's P.E.A.C.E. program, and the video was published on YouTube. The soundtrack uses several pieces of music, including John Lennon's original recording of Imagine. The lyrics say: "Imagine there's no heaven/ It's easy if you try/ No hell below us/ Above us only sky."

In an interview published on CMCentral.com September 27, 2007, the interviewer of **John Ellis of TREE63** commented that their new album (Sunday and Everyday) has a psychedelic feel to it and some tracks are reminiscent of John Lennon. Ellis replied: "Did you say psychedelic? It's funny, I've been doing a lot of reading recently about the 40th anniversary of Monterrey, and the Summer of Love this year. So I've been reading a lot about Sgt. Pepper, the whole psychedelic culture of 40 years ago. My dad brought me up on the Beatles and by the time I was twelve I was a complete Beatle addict. I have a lot of deep roots in that culture, and most of the music I buy these days is 40 years old."

Granger Community Church in Granger, Indiana, featured Beatles Music as their 2007 Christmas theme. **Pastor Tim Stevens** said: "With Across the Universe currently in the theaters and the new Beatles-themed Cirque du Soleil show in Vegas called Love, the Beatles are as hot as ever. Using the music of the Beatles we will be telling the Christmas story all December. And we've been getting great feedback from music lovers of all generations" (<http://www.leadingsmart.com/leadingmart/2007/11/let-it-bechrist.html/>). They advertised it as "Let it Be...Christmas -- A Story Told by Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Paul, George and Ringo."

Standard Publishing published a series of Bible studies in 2007 entitled "Tuning into God" that are based on songs from the Beatles and other rock groups. The studies give the background to the raunchy old songs and even encourage the Bible class to play them. This is like digging in a garbage can to learn nutrition.

CCM bands traveling with the Rock & Worship Roadshow 2011 performed the Beatles song "Ob-La-Di, Ob-La-Da." The "artists" are **MercyMe, Jars of Clay, Matt Maher** (Roman Catholic), **Thousand Foot Krunch, The Afters & Lacrae**. Their enthusiastic cover of the Beatles song appeared on the MercyMe Channel on YouTube.

We believe it is absolutely unconscionable for Christian musicians to encourage an appetite for Beatles' music in young people. No rock group has had a more spiritually-destructive influence than the Beatles. They were certainly controlled by demons as they captured the affection of an entire generation with their "magical mystery" music and carried millions of young people along on their journey to free sex, unisex, eastern religion, atheism, drug abuse, and rebellion against established order.

In his 1965 book, *A Spaniard in the Works*, John Lennon called Jesus Christ many wicked things that we cannot repeat and he blasphemed the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

In the song "God" (1970), Lennon sang: "I don't believe in Bible. I don't believe in Jesus. I just believe in me, Yoko and me, that's reality."

Lennon's extremely popular song "IMAGINE" (1971) promotes atheism and a global New Age unity. The lyrics say: "Imagine there's no heaven ... No hell below us, above us only sky ... no religion too/ You may say I'm a dreamer, but I'm not the only one/ I hope some day you'll join us, and the world will live as one."

How many millions of people throughout the world have followed John Lennon in this delusive dream? Death will prove that this dream is actually the most horrible nightmare imaginable.

George Harrison was a Hindu to the day of his death and led many into this pagan darkness.



As of April 2009, the Beatles were still promoting Hinduism. The two surviving Beatles headlined a benefit concert to promote Transcendental Meditation (TM) among children. The concert benefited the David Lynch Foundation, which is dedicated "consciousness-based education and world peace." The objective is to raise funds to teach one million children to meditate. Joining Ringo Starr and Paul McCartney were Sheryl Crow, Donovan, Eddie Vedder of Pearl Jam, and others. Though some try to deny it, TM is a Hindu practice and is based on the concept that the universe is God and man can unite with God through mysticism.

The TM practitioner uses a mantra to put himself into an altered state of consciousness. One page of the David Lynch Foundation's web site a little girl testifies, "It is quiet and comfortable and I feel connected to everything and everyone." The practice of TM was brought to America by the Hindu guru Maharishi Mahesh Yogi and popularized by the Beatles when they visited his lectures in Wales in 1967 and his ashram in India in 1968.

George Harrison went on to join the Hare Krishnas and died in the Hindu faith. Maharishi developed TM from the Hindu Vedas. He called TM "a path to God" and "the spontaneous flow of knowledge."

The Beatles have done more to further the devil's program in these last days than any other music group. It is unconscionable for a Christian to pay homage to these people and to their demonically-inspired music, thereby encouraging Christian young people to think that rock & roll is innocent fun.

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour" (1 Peter 5:8).

The Beatles continue to exercise a vast influence, and young people need to be warned to stay away from them and from the world of licentious rock and roll and pagan New Age philosophy that the Beatles promoted.

"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you" (2 Cor. 6:14-17).

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2 Timothy 3:2-3

"This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves..."

Kitchen or Career?

As a teenager, I wanted to find out God's will for my life with all of my heart. If God would have told me audibly or sent me a letter in the mail of what it was He wanted me to do, I would have done it without hesitation. If He wanted me to be a doctor, I would have diligently worked at my grades to go to college and be the very best doctor I could be. If He would have told me to be a missionary to Japan, I would have run straight to the store to buy every book on learning the Japanese language and culture. But, the devil wanted to do everything he could to stifle my burning fire to do God's will. He tried — and still does — to use every tactic in his sneaky little book of tricks to lead me astray. And I can tell you that it worked, for a time. But God is far more powerful than the devil. If it wasn't for His grace, I'd be scared to find out where I would be today. However, like I said, I wanted God's will — and that's the key.



What happens if God tells us what He wants us to do, and we don't like it.

I can tell you that I probably wouldn't have been so zealous about God's Will if I received a letter in the mail from God telling me He wanted me to be a teacher. I think I would've told God He sent me the wrong letter. I didn't like school, and thinking about going to school everyday until I was retired almost made me ill. Throughout the journey of finding God's Will for my life, which seemed to be so long, I often wondered why it was so hard to figure out. But why, would God keep His will from us? Wouldn't He want us to know exactly what He wants us to do? Of course He would. If we asked most children how God talks to us — they would tell us that we talk to God by prayer, and God talks to us by His Word. It was silly for me to want God's will with all of my heart and not seek His Word to help find answers. Why is that hard for us to understand? We can tell God we want His will until our faces turn blue, but if we don't start by looking in the Bible — we're in for a long drawn-out journey. That was my mistake.

So as godly women, what does God say He wants us to do?

Doctors? Nurses? Teachers? Missionaries? Wives? First Timothy 5:14 says: "I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully." That's right ladies, it's really that simple. As a woman, if you're trying to find God's will for your life, it isn't hard. There is extremely unnecessary pressure on teenagers to figure out what they're going to do with their life by grade twelve in order to know what college to go to. Guess what? That's Satan's favourite tactic on young people trying to find God's will. He used it on me, and it almost worked — almost.

The pressure of going to college pushes teenagers to choose a career.

But God doesn't want His precious daughters choosing careers. You can call that sexist; you can call that whatever you want. I call it Biblical, because that's what it is. The Bible says in plain English: "...that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house..." and "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord." As young women, we need to pray for our future husbands and just serve God

everyday until then. Once God shows you who your husband is, you can follow him as he follows Christ. Women choosing careers and working jobs outside of the home has the devil smiling ear to ear, because it makes it that much easier for him to break up the home. The Bible says that women are the weaker vessel, why would God want the weaker vessel under the influence of the world five days a week? God says we are to be "...an help meet" to our husbands. (Genesis 2:18) How can a woman be a help meet to her husband if she's at work too? I've read about the virtuous woman over and over again — trying to be like her.

Nowhere can I find that she has a career. She serves God, her husband, and her children. She works from home, planting a vineyard, making clothes, bringing her food from afar; but you won't read that she's a nurse or a lawyer, or working an 8 A.M. - 5 P.M. job. Our job as women is to live ultimately for God, and after that our husband and children. The philosophy of the world that families need to have "double incomes" (meaning both the husband and wife need to work) is straight from the devil. The world may tell you to choose a career, but God says choose the kitchen — choose to serve Him and the family He gives you. "Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised."

You've got mail.

God told you in His Word what He wanted you to do. We can either tell God He sent us the wrong mail, or we can purpose to do what He wants us to do — whether we like it or not. But, you'll never be as happy as when you are doing God's perfect will for your life.

by Chynna Carpenter

from "Far Above Rubies" A Magazine Especially For Teen Girls. Visit Our Website at:
www.fairhavensbaptist.net

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Marijuana, I.Q., and Mental Health

(Friday Church News Notes, November 2, 2012,
www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) -

According to a new study, individuals who use marijuana during their teenage years "have an average drop in I.Q. of eight points and are vulnerable to mental health problems" ("Marijuana-dependent teens," Baptist Press, Oct. 23, 2012).

The study was by the Proceedings of the National Sciences (PNAS). Another study found that marijuana use among teens has grown 21 percent in just four years. It is obviously not a harmless drug, and its use will increase even more dramatically if it is legalized, as is possible in the states of Colorado, Washington, and Oregon in the November 6 election.

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The "Gang Jesus"

(Friday Church News Notes, November 2, 2012, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - We have warned repeatedly that the average Christian in the West worships a false christ and that the very dangerous world of contemporary worship music represents all of these abominable idols. Those who are playing with contemporary worship are building bridges to this world.

- There is the non-judgmental christ of The Shack
- The Roman Catholic wafer christ
- The Mormon christ who is the spirit brother of Satan
- The Jehovah's Witness christ who is Michael the Archangel
- The natural-born christ of theological modernism
- The liberation theology christ who is a communist freedom fighter and social justice hero
- The contemplative christ who is encountered via such things as centering prayer and repetition prayer.
- The most popular of all, it seems, is the rock & roll party christ.



Rapper Jayceon "Game" Taylor venerates this christ in his new album *Jesus Piece*, the cover of which features "Jesus" portrayed as a gang member, complete with a gaudy gold chain and a tattoo on his face, surrounded by marijuana leaves.

Taylor isn't a CCM artist. He is a secular rapper, but his philosophy is no different than that of many of the "Christian" rockers and rappers. Taylor is inventing a "Jesus" in his own likeness.

He says, "Last year in August I got baptized [at City of Refuge Church in Gardena, California] and so I've been going to church, but I still been kinda doing me out here [in the rapper world]. I still love the strip club and I still smoke and drink. I'm faithful to my family, so I wanted to make an album where you could love God and be of God, but still get it poppin' in your life" ("Jesus Portrayed as Gang Member," *Christian Post*, Oct. 24, 2012).

Taylor says his new album is intended to encourage those who "love God but are still street and wanna remain themselves."

Hey, Taylor, this is the essence of the emerging church! They might want to temper your zeal for strippers a bit, but you have the basic idea. The Bible presents an entirely different scenario. It says that the true Christian is "a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (2 Cor. 5:17).

Scriptural baptism is a picture of dying with Christ to the old sin life and being raised to an entirely new life of holiness.

by David Cloud

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Manna In The Wilderness -

In every issue of Heads Up we want to publish a website where readers in remote parts of the world (or in cities where they have not been able to find a Bible preaching church!) may download good solid, sound Bible preaching. One of the evangelists we have enjoyed having in our church is Bro. Dwight Smith. You can hear good sermons from Bro. Smith on this site:

<http://www.sermonaudio.com/search.asp?SpeakerOnly=true&currSection=sermonsspeaker&keyword=Evangelist%5EDwight%5ESmith>

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It's final in Ireland: Kids, gov't rule in home over parents

Michael F. Haverluck (OneNewsNow.com)

Friday, November 16, 2012



Pro-family groups are going on the offensive to stop an incoming barrage of internationalists' treaties as voters approve ballot measures on "children's rights."

The results are in ... and parents in Ireland voted for their own defeat -- conceding that they are not fit to make decisions about raising their own children. They effectively handed over their parental rights to their own children and the government Saturday, as the final poll results show this week that 57 percent -- versus 43 percent -- of Irish voters believe that "children's rights" should usurp their own when making crucial decisions on the upbringing of Irish youth.

In another stride toward global governance, the United Nations brought Ireland under compliance with its mandate that allows for the state's seizure of children via an amendment that voters approved into the Irish constitution. Only one-third of Irish voters showed up to cast their ballot on the measure, which was not only supported by every political party, but surprisingly by all children's charities, as well.

But pro-family groups in America are more than concerned that what goes down in Ireland doesn't stay in Ireland.

"The election results are going to require us to engage in both offensive and defensive tactics to preserve parental rights," says Parentalrights.org president Michael P. Farris. "There is absolutely no doubt that the internationalists are going to push extremely hard for ratification of a whole series of treaties that will dramatically reorder the relationship between parents and children."

And Farris promises that he will not let America sit down and bow to the dictates of the government as parents blindly stand by to watch their parental rights stripped before their very eyes.

"The nanny state will gain much ground under these treaties," Farris adds. "We must do everything we can to stop their ratification -- and we will continue to work very hard to push the Parental Rights Amendment. Getting a two-thirds majority in both the House and Senate will be a significant challenge over the next two years, and we may have to hope for a turnaround in 2014."

To see what the U.S. government is already doing to invade parental rights in the home, watch "Overruled: Government Invasion of Your Parental Rights"

Opponents in Ireland campaigning to defeat the referendum propagated by the government to champion and "strengthen children's rights" will attest that Irish parents will need a lot more than the luck of the Irish when they want to exercise their rights to raise their children the way they see fit. After a hard-fought, but unfruitful battle against the government's drive to pass the measure for the amendment, the Alliance of Parents against the State argue that the United Nations will reign supreme over Irish law.

According to APS, voters have given the Irish government virtually unchecked authority to seize the nation's youth when acting in the "best interests of children" -- a term which it defines itself. The pro-family group says parents will be faced with the following new challenges due to Saturday's results:

- Your child can be placed for adoption against your will.
- The State can decide to give birth control to children of any age, even if they are below the age of consent.
- The State can bring children to other countries for abortions without parental consent, even if the child disagrees.
- The U.N. and the EU can make any laws for children without consent of the Irish government if it wishes.
- The State can decide ... to vaccinate every child in Ireland, and the parent -- and even the child -- have no say in the matter.

APS also maintains that the legal system's judges upholding the new laws work hand in hand with the State when it comes to child seizures, noting that their true interest is in covering themselves. The pro-family group points out that when children die under the state's care, no one is held responsible, yet when false charges are brought against parents -- who are acquitted -- family courts still punish them and remove their children from their homes.

Many parents in Ireland are up in arms, as it seems as though their parental rights were virtually stripped overnight, as the wording of the amendment was only unveiled a few weeks ago, giving them an inadequate amount of time effectively counter the government's massive fly-by-night campaign. It is further reported that the government was ordered by the Supreme Court of Ireland to tear down and remove its website that campaigned for the referendum's passage -- an alleged illegal cover-up that opponents are using as their central argument to reverse the voters' passage.

And challengers to the amendment claim that the State's campaign to ratify it was corrupt and misleading from the get-go.

"It has been a YES campaign from the beginning," former European Parliament member from Ireland, Kathy Sinnott, told LifeSiteNews. "Everyone believes that in voting YES, they are protecting children, but they are really giving up their rights over their children. The government thinks that people are ready to buy their propaganda that changing the Constitution is about protecting children. Of course this is nonsense, because our Constitution already very strongly protects children."

In fact, it takes protection to a whole new meaning ... literally.

"Not only does the State take over parental authority, but all a parent has to do is 'likely to fail' in their responsibilities, as defined by the State, for the State to take control of the children," Sinnott continued. "Everything, of course, is for the 'best interest of the child,' which according to the U.N. treaty, is decided by the State."

And Sinnott further shared why the government's intrusion is so fundamentally wrong.

"The reason why the family should have prior rights over children is because of the family bond, which is nature's strategy for protecting children. This is the mother-child bond, the father-child bond, the mother-father bond, and the brother-sister bond. This bond is the source of what is really in the 'best interest' of the child. The State can never have this bond. By injecting themselves as controlling shareholder of every family in this country, the State is reversing this natural order."

Just as many parents in Ireland failed to see the dire consequences of letting such a measure pass, pro-family groups in the U.S. fear that Americans will let the government on their own shores invade upon the rights of parents within their own homes. In fact, President Barack Obama is giving his full-fledged support for the U.S. judicial system to adopt the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child -- the very treaty that Ireland's new "children's rights" amendment is based upon.

http://onenewsnow.com/culture/2012/11/16/it%E2%80%99s-final-in-ireland-kids-gov%E2%80%99t-rule-in-home-over-parents?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+delicious%2Fgqlf+%28Christian+Headlines+Top+Headlines%29

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The Chocolate Soldier

(Ed.- I read C.T. Studd's challenge on heroism about once a year. It ought to be preached in our pulpits frequently. If Studd were alive today, I wonder how many of the anemic anointed would welcome him into their churches and tell him to fire away. There are several types God never uses, tumbleweeds, marshmallows, or sissies. We keep on asking the question, "Where are the courageous men of our generation?")

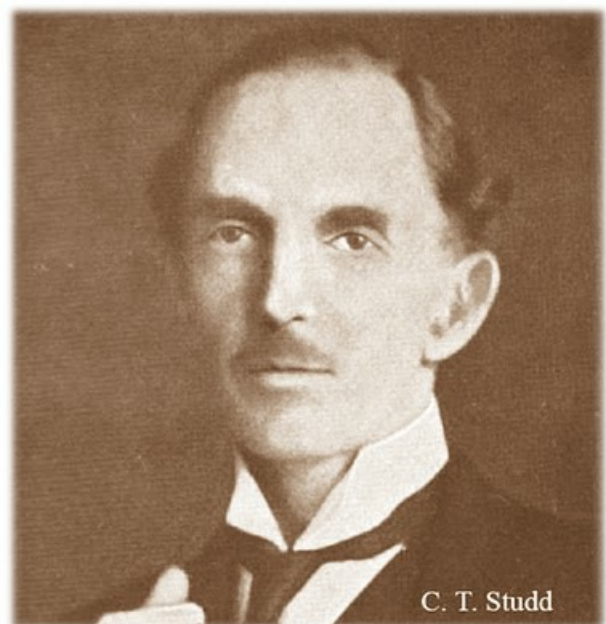
Heroism - The Lost Chord of Christianity

Written by C. T. Studd

Heroism is the lost chord; the missing note of present-day Christianity!

Every true soldier is a hero!

A SOLDIER WITHOUT HEROISM IS A CHOCOLATE SOLDIER!



Who has not been stirred to scorn and mirth at the very thought of a Chocolate Soldier? In peace true soldiers are captive lions, fretting in their cages. War gives them their liberty and send them, like boys bounding out of school, to obtain their heart's desire or perish in the attempt. Battle is the soldier's vital breath! Peace turns him into a stooping asthmatic. War makes him a whole man again, and gives him the heart, strength, and vigor of a hero.

EVERY TRUE CHRISTIAN IS A SOLDIER of Christ - a hero "par excellence"! Braver than the bravest - scorning the soft seductions of peace and her oft-repeated warnings against hardship, disease, danger, and death, whom he counts among his bosom friends.

THE OTHERWISE CHRISTIAN IS A CHOCOLATE CHRISTIAN! Dissolving in water and melting at the smell of fire. "Sweeties" they are! Bonbons, lollipops! Living their lives on a glass dish or in a cardboard box, each clad in his soft clothing, a little frilled white paper to preserve his dear little delicate constitution.

Here are some **PORTRAITS OF CHOCOLATE SOLDIERS** taken by the Lord Jesus Christ Himself.

"He said, 'I go, sir' and went not"; he said he would go to the heathen, but stuck fast to Christendom instead.

"They say and do not" - they tell others to go, and yet do not go themselves. "Never," said General Gordon to a corporal, as he himself jumped upon the parapet of a trench before Sebastopol to fix a gabion which the corporal had ordered a private fix, and wouldn't fix himself, "Never tell another man to do what you are afraid to do yourself."

To the Chocolate Christian the very thought of war brings a violent attack of ague (feverish chills), while the call to battle always finds him with the palsy. "I really cannot move," he says. "I only wish I could, but I can sing, and here are some of my favorite lines:

*I must be carried to the skies , On a flowery bed of ease,
Let others fight to win the prize, Or sail thro' bloody seas.*

*Mark time, Christian heroes, Never go to war;
Stop and mind the babies, Playing on the floor.*

*Wash and dress and feed them, Forty times a week.
Till they're roly poly- Puddings so to speak.*

Chorus:

*Round and round the nursery, Let us ambulate
Sugar and spice and all that's nice, Must be on our slate.*

"Thank the good Lord," said a very fragile, white-haired lady, "God never meant me to be a jellyfish!"

She wasn't!

GOD NEVER WAS A CHOCOLATE MANUFACTURER, AND NEVER WILL BE. God's men are always heroes. In Scripture you can trace their giant foot-tracks down the sands of time.

NOAH walked with God, he didn't only preach righteousness, he acted it. He went through water and didn't melt. He breasted the current of the popular opinion of his day, scorning alike the hatred and ridicule of the scoffers who mocked at the thought of their being but one way of salvation. He warned the unbelieving

and, entering the ark himself, didn't open the door an inch when once God had shut it. A real hero untainted by the fear of man.

*Learn to scorn the praise of men.
Learn to lose with God;
Jesus won the world through' shame!
And beckons us His road.*

ABRAHAM, a simple farmer, at a word from the Invisible God, marched, with family and stock, through the terrible desert to a distant land to live among a people whose language he could neither speak nor understand! Not bad that! But later he did even better, marching hot foot against the combined armies of five kings, flushed with recent victory, to rescue one man! His army? Just 318 odd fellows, armed like a circus crowd. And he won too. "He always wins who sides with God." What pluck! Only a farmer! No war training! Yet what hero has eclipsed his feat? His open secret? He was THE FRIEND OF GOD.

MOSES - the man of God - was a species of human chameleon-scholar, general, lawgiver, leader, etc. Brought up as the Emperor's grandson with more than a good chance of coming to the throne, one thing only between him and it-TRUTH-what a choice! What a temptation! A throne for a lie! Ignominy, banishment, or likely enough death for the truth! He played the man! "Refusing to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, he chose rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the pleasures of sin and success for a season, accounting the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt."

Again I see him. Now an old man and alone, marching stolidly back to Egypt, after forty years of exile, to beard the lion in his den, to liberate Pharaoh's slaves right under his very nose, and to lead them across that great and terrible wilderness. A WILD-CAT AFFAIR, if ever there was one! When were God's schemes otherwise! Look at Jordan, Jericho, Gideon, Goliath, and scores of others. Tame tabby-cat schemes are stamped with another hall mark- that of the Chocolate Brigade! How dearly they love their tabbies yet think themselves wise men! **REAL CHRISTIANS REVEL IN DESPERATE VENTURES FOR CHRIST**, expecting from God great things and attempting the same with exhilaration. History cannot match these feats of Moses. How was it done? He consulted not with flesh and blood, he obeyed not men but God.

Once again I see the old grey-beard, this time descending the Mount with giant strides and rushing into the camp, his eyes blazing like burning coals. One man against three million dancing dervishes drunk with debauchery. Bravo! Well done, old man! First class! His cheek pales not, but his mouth moves, and I think I catch his words, "If God be for me who can be against me? I will not be afraid of 10,000 of the people that have set themselves against me. Though a host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear." And he didn't. He wins again. Whence this desperate courage? Listen! "Now the man Moses was very meek above all the men which were upon the face of the earth." "The Lord spake unto Moses face to face as a man speaketh unto his friend." "My servant, Moses," said his Master, "is faithful in all Mine house, with him will I speak mouth to mouth." Such is the explanation of Moses the chameleon, the man and friend of God and consequently a first-class hero.

DAVID - the man after God's own heart - was a man of war and mighty man of valor. When all Israel were on the run, David faced Goliath - alone...with God - and he but a stripling, and well scolded too by his brother for having come to see the battle. What a splendid fool Eliab must have been! as though David would go to see a battle and not stay to fight. **THEY ARE CHOCOLATE SOLDIERS WHO MERELY GO TO SEE BATTLES, AND COOLLY URGE OTHERS TO FIGHT THEM**. They had better save their journey money and use it to send out real fighters instead. Soldiers don't need dry nurses, and if they did the Holy Ghost is always on the spot and ready to undertake any case on simple application. No! David went to the battle and stayed to fight, and won! Wise beyond his years, he had no use for Saul's armor. It cramped his freedom of action. He tried it on and took it off, quick sharp. And, besides, it made such a ghastly rattle, even when he walked,

that he could not hear the still small voice of God, and would never have heard Him saying afterwards, "This is the way to the brook, David! and there are the five smooth stones! Trust only in Me and them. Your own home-made sling will do first class, and there! that's the shortest cut to Goliath." THE CHOCOLATES RAN AWAY - they were all Chocolates - but David ran upon Goliath. One smooth stone was enough.

David's secret was that he had but one Director, and He, the Infallible One. He directed the stone, as He directed the youth. Too many directors spoil the sport, and two are too many by just one. Thus Christ said to His soldiers: "HE shall teach you all things, HE shall guide you into all the truth."

"THIS is My Beloved Son: HEAR HIM."

"ONE MEDIATOR ONLY, between God and Man, the man Christ Jesus."

ONE DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN MEN - GOD THE HOLY GHOST. Whose directions require indeed instant obedience, but no the endorsement of any man.

THE DEVIL NEEDS RED-HOT SHOT, FRESH FROM THE FOUNDRY OF THE HOLY GHOST. He laughs at cold shot or tepid, and as for that made of half-iron and half-clay, half-divine and half-human, why you might just as well pelt him with snowballs.

Whence did this raw youth derive his pluck and skill? NOT from military camps, nor theological schools, nor religious retreats. "To know The Only True God and Jesus Christ," is enough. Paul determined to know only Jesus Christ, and look at the grand result! Whilst others were learning pretty theories, David, like John, had been alone with God in the wilds, practicing on bears and lions. The result? HE KNEW GOD AND DID EXPLOITS. He knew God only. He trusted God only. He obeyed God only. That's the secret. God alone gives strength. God adulterated with men entails the weakness of iron and clay - Chocolate - brittleness!

Yet hero as he was, even David alas! once played the role of Chocolate Soldier. HE STAYED AT HOME WHEN HE SHOULD HAVE GONE TO WAR. His army, far off, in danger, fighting the enemy, won. David, at home, secure, within sight of God's house and often going there, suffered the one great defeat of his life, entailing such a bitter, lifelong reaping as might well deter others from the folly of sowing wild oats. David's sin is a terrific sermon (like Lot's preaching in Sodom must have been), its theme - "DON'T BE A CHOCOLATE SOLDIER!"

In his simple, quick, and full confession, David proved himself a man again. It takes a real man to make a true confession - a Chocolate Soldier will excuse or cloak his sin. He tumbles in the mud, flounders on, wipes his mouth to try to get the bad taste of his acted lie out of it, and then goes on his way saying, "I have done no wickedness." A self-murdering fool! Killing his conscience to save his face, like Balaam beating the ass who sought to save his master's life. Being a Chocolate Soldier nearly did for David. Beware!

NATHAN was another real Christian Soldier. He went to his king and rebuked him to his face, like Peter's dealing with Ananias (only David embraced his opportunity and confessed), and unlike the Chocolate Soldiers of today who go whispering about and refusing either to judge, rebuke, or put away evil because of the entailed scandal forsooth. Veritable Soapy Sams. They say "It is nothing! nothing at all! A mere misunderstanding!" As though God's cause would suffer more through a bold declaration and defense of the truth and the use of the knife, than by the hiding up of sin, and the certain development of mortification in the member, involving death to the whole body. "He that doeth righteousness is righteous," and "he that doeth sin is of the devil," and ought to be told so. He that is a second time led captive by the devil needs neither plaster nor treacle, but the brace rebuke and summons to repentance of a righteous man to effect his salvation. WE ARE BADLY IN NEED OF NATHANS TODAY, who fear God and nought else, no, not even a scandal.

DANIEL was another hero. Of course he was! Was he not the man greatly beloved of God who sent an angel to tell him so?

I love to watch him as he walks, with firm step and radiant face, to the lions' den, stopping but once - like his Master en route to Calvary - to comfort his weeping and agonized emperor. God shut the mouths of the lions against Daniel, but opened them wide against those who had opened their mouths against His servant.

A man is known by his works, and the works of Daniel were his three friends, who, rather than bow down to men or gold, braved the fiery furnace.

Again we see him going to the banquet hall, and hear his conductor whisper in his ear, "Draw it mild, Daniel, be statesmanlike. Place and power again for you if you are tactful and wise - especially tactful!" And Daniel's simple reply, "Get thee behind me, Satan!" There he stands before the king, braving torture or instant death - but it's the king who quails, not Daniel - who tells him to his face the whole hot truth of God, diminishing not a jot.

JOHN THE BAPTIST - a man taught and made and sent of God - good old John! Who doesn't love and admire him? Why, even Herod did. A genuine deficiency of oil and treacle in his composition. He always told the bang flat truth, with emphasis. As he loved, so he warned. He knew not how to fawn. HE WOODED WITH THE SWORD, AND "MEN" LOVED HIM THE BETTER FOR IT. They always do.

The leaders of religion sent to John to ask him the dearly loved question of every Pharisee, "By what authority doest thou these (good) things?" They asked that of Christ Himself, and crucified Him for the doing of them. John's answer was plain and pungent, "I will tell you what you ask, and more. (John was always liberal!) I? I am nobody, but ye and your masters are a generation of vipers." A good hot curry, that! John never served his curries with butter sauce, but he was always very liberal with chutney - a man of God - NO SUGAR PLUM NOR CHOCOLATE SOLDIER HE!

Thus also he faced Herod after six months in an underground dungeon, and he a man of "God's Open-air Mission." Brought straight in before the king; surrounded with all the might and majesty of camp and court; blinking at the unaccustomed sight of light, but by no means putting blinkers on the truth, he blurted out his hot and thunderous rebuke, "Thou shalt not have that woman to by thy wife." A whole sermon in one sentence, as easy to remember as impossible to forget. John had preached like that before; like Hugh Latimer, he was not above repeating a good sermon to a king, word for word, when the king had not given sufficient heed to it.

John received the unique distinction of a first-class character from both God and the agent of the devil. Hark to the Savior indulging in an outburst of exquisite sarcasm, "What think ye of John? A reed shaken by the wind? A man clothed in soft raiment?" A Chocolate Christian? (How delicious! The Chocolates were right in front of Jesus at the time - Pharisees, Sadducees, priests, scribes, lawyers, and other hypocrites. How the crowd must have enjoyed it!) "A prophet?

Nay, much more than prophet! of men born of women there is none greater than John." And what did the devil's agent say when, after John's death, he heard of Jesus? "This," I tell you, "is John risen from the dead." What a character! Fancy Jesus being mistaken for anyone! He could have been mistaken only for John. Nobody envies him the well-deserved honor, great though it was, for John was a man - pure granite right through, with not a grain of chocolate in him.

Had John but heard Jesus say, "Ye shall be My witnesses unto the uttermost parts of the earth," I very much doubt if Herod's dungeon, or his soldiers, could have detained him. He surely would have found some means to escape, and run off to preach Christ's Gospel, if not in the very heart of Africa, then in some more

difficult and dangerous place. Yet Christ said, referring to His subsequent gift of the Holy Ghost to every believer, "He that is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he," intimating that even greater powers than those of John are at the disposal of every Christian, and that what John was each one of us can be - good, straight, bold, unconquerable, heroic.

But here are other foot-tracks - outrageous ones: they can belong only to one man - [THAT GRANDEST OF CHRISTIAN PARADOXES - THE LITTLE GIANT PAUL](#) - whose head was as big as his body, and his heart greater than both. Once he thought and treated every Christian as a combination of knave and fool. Then he became one himself. He was called "fool" because his acts were so far beyond the dictates of human reason, and "mad" because of his irresponsible fiery zeal for Christ and men. A first-class scholar, but one who knew how to use scholarship properly; for he put it on the shelf, declaring the wisdom of men to be but folly, and determined to know nothing else save Jesus Christ and Him crucified. The result - he made the world turn somersault. His life was a perpetual gamble for God. Daily he faced death for Christ. Again and again he stood fearless before crowds thirsting for his blood. He stood before kings and governors and "turned not a hair". He didn't so much as flinch before Nero, that vice-president of hell. His sufferings were appalling; read them. He trod in his Master's footsteps, and so received - God is always just in His favors - the same splendid compliment that Jesus did. "All forsook him." So there were some Chocolate Christians in those days too. Anyone who forsook Paul must have been made of Chocolate.

Doubtless the "CHOCOLATES" excused themselves as they do today. "Who could abide such a fanatical, fiery fool? such an uncompromising character? Nobody could work with him, or he with them!" (What a lie! Jesus did, and they got on well together.) A tactless enthusiast, who considered it his business to tell every man the unvarnished truth regardless of consequences. He won his degree hands down, and without a touch of the spur. A first-class one, too - that of the headman's axe - next best to that of the cross.

And so the tale goes on. Go where you will through the Scriptures or history, you find that men who really knew God, and didn't merely say they did, were invariably Paragons and Pluck; Dare-Devil Desperadoes for Jesus; Gamblers for God. "Fools and Madmen," shout the world and the Chocolates. "Yes, for Christ's sake," add the Angels!

*Nobly they fought to win the prize,
Climbing the steep ascents of heaven,
Through' peril, toil, and pain.
O God, to us let grace be given,
To follow in their train.*

The Chocolate Christians of today can at least boast of having ancient pedigrees. There are [CHOCOLATES A LA RUEBEN](#), who have great searchings of heart, and make great resolves of heart too. But somehow they still sit among the sheepfolds, listening to the pipings of their much-loved organs and church choirs. It's good to have a great heart searching. It's better to make a great heart-resolve. But, if instead of obeying, we squat among the sheep, leaving our few hard-pressed brethren to tackle the wolves by themselves, verily we are but Chocolate Christians. You made a great resolve to go to Africa for Christ a year or two ago. Where are you now? In England? Yes! Yes! Lollipop! (Judges 5:16)

There are [CHOCOLATES MEROZ](#), who earned the curse of the angel of the Lord. War was declared; the battle about to begin; the odds were outrageous, and Meroz remained in England attending conventions until the battle was over, then he went, in comfort and security, as a Cook's tourist! Doubtless they said, "They couldn't fight till they had been properly ordained, and, besides, there was so very much to be done in fat, overfed Meroz, and surely to feed a flock of fat sheep in a safe place has always been considered the ideal training of war"; as though the best training for the soldier was to become a nursemaid!!! (Judges 5:23.)

CHOCOLATES DU BALAAM begin first-class, and earn the name of prophets. Then they develop a squint, melt, and finally run out of the frying-pan into the fire, thus Balaam.

One day he couldn't get his left eye to look at God. It would look at earth and mammon and that chit of a girl, Miss Popularity. He ought to have done as God told him, and plucked it out. But he said that was too much to ask of any man, and besides he wanted the best of both worlds. He had a hearty desire to die the death of the righteous, but he wasn't willing to pay the price of a righteous life. He hadn't the pluck to curse God's people, so he made plans for others to make them sin. But one day, while his dupes were putting his chestnuts into the fire, they fell in themselves, and Balaam with them (Numbers 22-24).

"I counsel thee to buy of me eye salve, that thou mayest once again have a single eye, and be enabled to see the folly of flirting with the world."

CHOCOLATE DEMAS, who left old fiery hard-hitting Paul for an easier path. He said he thought Paul should wink at, or slobber over sin, instead of rebuking it. "He was so very fond of the knife, you know; and he never would use sticking-plaster, because he said it never healed the sore but made it burrow underneath and become bigger, worse, and dangerous" (II Tim. 4:10).

MARK joined the Chocolate Brigade once. He left Paul and Barnabas in the lurch, and went back to Jerusalem for a rest cure - a religious retreat. Thank God he got sick of it ere long, resigned his commission, and re-enlisting in God's army became a useful soldier (Acts 13:13).

MANY FINE YOUNGSTERS ARE TURNED INTO CHOCOLATES BY OLD PROPHETS. Old prophets who have lost their fire, or fire off words instead of deeds, usually become Great Chocolate Manufacturers. That poor young prophet. He did so well when he obeyed God only, but it was all over with him when he listened to another voice, even though that of an old prophet. Didn't the old prophet say he was a prophet? and say he'd got the message straight from God? What a damnable lie! The floor of Christendom and elsewhere is littered with wrecks made by old prophets.

God won't stand nonsense from any man. Every man has to choose between Christ and Barabbas, and every Christian between God and some old prophet. Better be a silly donkey in the estimation of an old prophet than listen to his soft talk and flattery, and afterwards become a wreck. "This is My beloved Son, hear HIM." No! not even Moses, nor Elijah, nor both. "HEAR HIM." "You have an anointing from God, and you have no need that any man teach you." You say you believe the Bible! do your deeds give the lie to your words? (I Kings 13)

THE TEN SPIES WERE CHOCOLATES. They melted and ran over the whole congregation of Israel, turning them into CHOCOLATE CREAMS - "softies", afraid to face the fire and water before them. God put them all into the saucepan again and boiled them for forty years in the desert, and left them there. He has no use for Chocolates. It's not small things He despises, but "Chocolates"; for He said, "Your little ones shall inherit the promised land which you have forfeited through listening to men and despising Me" (Numbers 13).

JONAH became a Chocolate Soldier once. Told to go to Africa, he went to Liverpool and took ship for America. Luckily he met a storm and a whale which, after three days' instruction, taught him how to pray and obey, and set him once again on the right track (Jonah 1).

There's nothing that shows up CHOCOLATES so much as a bit of a breeze among God's people. Paul and Barnabas had one once. Judging from experience, I guess there were some Chocolates about then who got into a fog right away! Before that, they had vowed they would go to the heathen; but this breeze between P. and B. put them off. If they hadn't been MADE OF CHOCOLATE they would have said, "This affair between Paul and Barnabas only makes it more necessary for me to keep close to God, and do what He told me to do more exactly and punctually; so I shall go a bit sooner to Africa - that's all!"

Difficulties, dangers, disease, death, or divisions don't deter any but Chocolates from executing God's Will. When someone says there's a lion in the way, the real Christian promptly replies, "That's hardly enough inducement for me; I want a bear or two besides to make it worth my while to go."

CHOCOLATES are very fond of talking loud and long against some whom they call fanatics, as though there were any danger of Christians being fanatics nowadays! Why, fanatics among Christians are as rare as the "dodo". Now, if they declaimed against "tepidity", they would talk sense. God's real people have always been called fanatics. Jesus was called mad; so was Paul; so was Whitfield, Wesley, Moody, Spurgeon. No one has graduated far in God's School who has not been paid the compliment of being called a fanatic. We Christians of today are indeed a tepid crew. Had we but half the fire and enthusiasm of the Suffragettes in the past, we would have the world evangelized and Christ back among us in no time. Had we the pluck and heroism of the Flyers, or the men who volunteered for the North or South Polar Expeditions, or for the Great War, or for any ordinary dare-devil enterprise, we could have every soul on earth knowing the name and salvation of Jesus Christ in less than ten years.

Alas! What stirs ordinary men's blood and turns them into heroes, makes most Christians run like a flock of frightened sheep. The Militants daily risked their lives in furtherance of their cause, and subscribed of their means in a way that cried "Shame" on us Christians, who generally brand the braving of risks and fighting against odds as a "tempting of God".

CHOCOLATE CARAMELS - "stick-jaw", boys call them - jawing, "I go, sir," and sticking fast in Christendom. No conquest is made in assured safety, and conquest for Christ certainly cannot so be made.

We Christians too often **SUBSTITUTE PRAYER FOR PLAYING THE GAME**. Prayer is good: but when used as a substitute for obedience, it is naught but a blatant hypocrisy, a despicable Pharisaism. We need as many meetings for actions as for prayer - perhaps more. Every orthodox prayer-meeting is opened by God saying to His people, "Go work today; pray that laborers be sent into My vineyard." It is continued by the Christians response, "I go, Lord, whithersoever Thou sendest me, that Thy Name may be hallowed everywhere, that Thy Kingdom may come speedily, that Thy Will may be done on earth as in heaven." But if it ends in nobody going anywhere, it had better never have been held at all. Like faith, prayer without works is dead. That is why many Prayer-Meetings might well be styled "much cry, yet little wool". Zerubbabel didn't only hold prayer-meetings; he went and cut down trees, and started to build. Hence God said, "From this day will I bless thee."

Report says that someone has rediscovered the secret of the old masters. Cannot we Christians rediscover, and put into practice, that of our Great Master and His former pupils, Heroism? He and they saved not themselves; they loved not their lives to the death, and so kept on saving them by losing them for Christ's sake.

WE ARE FRITTERING AWAY TIME AND MONEY IN A MULTIPLICITY OF CONVENTIONS, conferences, and retreats, when the real need is to go straight and full steam into battle, with the signal for "close action" flying.

The "Vox Humana" plays too important a part in our Christian organs and organizations today. The music, whoever plays, is bound to be thin when the tops of "Instant Obedience" and "Fiery Valor" are missing or unused, and without them to play the "Lost Chord" of Heroism is an impossibility.

"Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it," said the Blessed Virgin. Do what? Not put treacle and spice into the soft holy vessels inside the house, but pour the Water of Life into those empty stone ones outside. Cana's marriage feast would have ended in shame had the wine run short. Christ's marriage feast begins only when the wine is sufficient - a blend from every tongue and kindred and tribe and nation. The supply is assured, as soon as the water is poured out as Christ directed, into "the uttermost parts of the earth". The

mischievous today is the reluctance of the servants to do the outside work. They all want to serve indoors, wear smart clothes, listen to the conversation, and make a terrible lot of themselves in the butler's pantry.

DO LET US MAKE A REAL START NOW - AT ONCE. For years, like Mr. Winkle, we've declared we were just about to begin, and then never began at all. We must divorce Chocolate and Disobedience, and marry Faith and Heroism.

"Who shall begin the battle?" asked the king. "Thou," replied the prophet, and when the king and the young princes led the way, though the odds against them were terrific, they won with ridiculous ease. So, too, **THE APOSTLES LED IN THE WAR OF GOD** to the uttermost parts of the earth. Likewise in the Crusades, the kings and the princes of State and Church led; then why not today in **THE CRUSADE OF CHRIST TO EVANGELIZE THE WORLD?**

GOD'S SUMMONS TODAY IS TO THE YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN OF GREAT BRITAIN AND AMERICA AND CHRISTENDOM, WHO CALL THEMSELVES BY THE NAME OF CHRIST. "New wine," said Christ, "must be placed in New bottles." those superfluously labeled and patched-up old-fashioned ones are as hopeless as the New Theology. They can't be moved lest they burst with pride and spill the wine in the wrong place.

Listen: "And it shall be in the last days, I will pour forth of My Spirit upon all flesh. Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions (of faith), your old men shall dream dreams (of valorous obedience); yea, and on My bondmen and on My bondmaidens in those days will I pour forth of My Spirit, and they shall prophesy; and I will show wonders in the heaven above and signs in the earth beneath; and it shall be that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved. But how can they call on Him of whom they have not even heard? Must you stay, young man? Can't you go, young woman, and tell them? Verily we are in the last - the Laodicean stage - that of the Lukewarm Church.

Wilt thou be to Christ the partner of His throne or an emetic (Rev.3:21); a Militant or a Chocolate Christian? Wilt thou fear or wilt thou fight? Shall your brethren go to war and shall ye sit here? When He comes, shall He find faith on the earth?

A thousand times you have admitted Christ's
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands your life, your soul, your all.

Wilt thou be a miser and withhold what honor demands of thee? Wilt thou give like Ananias and Sapphira, who, pretending to give all, gave only part?

Possessing and enjoying the vineyard, wilt thou, like the husbandman, refuse the agreed rent? Wilt thou fear death, or devil, or men? **AND WILT THOU NOT FEAR SHAME?**

Some shall rise to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.

Shall we refuse to emulate the heroes of old, or shall we accomplish the double fulfilment of those glorious words? -

All these being men of war came with a perfect heart to make Jesus King over all the world. They were all mighty men of valor for the war! He that was least was equal to a hundred, and the greatest to a thousand! They were not of double heart! Their faces were like the faces of lions! They were as swift as the roes upon the mountains (to do their Lord's commands)! Ye sought in time past, for Jesus to be King over you. **NOW, THEN, DO IT.** (Compare I Chronicles 12:8,33 and 38, and II Samuel.3:17 and 18).

Shall we not reply: Thine are we, Jesus, and on Thy side. God do so to me, and more also, if as God has sworn unto Him, I do not even so to Jesus - to translate the kingdom from the house of Satan, and set up the throne of Jesus Christ over all the world. (Compare I Chron.12:18 and II Sam.3:10.)

Come, then, let us restore the "Lost Chord" of Christianity - **HEROISM** - to the world, and the crown of the world to Christ. Christ Himself asks thee, "Wilt thou be a Maligner or a Militant?"

To your knees, man! and to your Bible! Decide at once! Don't hedge! Time flies! Cease your insults to God, quit consulting flesh and blood. Stop your lame, lying, and cowardly excuses.

Enlist! Here are your papers and oath of allegiance. Scratch out one side and sign the other in the presence of God and the recording angel. Mark God's endorsements underneath:

HENCEFORTH

*For me
To live is Christ.
To die is gain.
I'll be a militant.
A man of God.
A gambler for Christ.
A hero.*

OR

*For me
Chocolate is my name.
Tepidity my temperature.
A malingerer I.
A child of men.
A self-excuser.
A humbug.*

Sign here _____

Sign here _____

God's promises are sure in either case: "Lo, I am with you alway." or "I will spew thee out of My mouth."

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Eddy-Torial -

The Urgency of Gratitude -

It is the epitaph of every man in hell. And of every nation God judges. And of every church that loses its candlestick.

"When they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened."

Romans 1:21



The tipping point, that pivotal moment when men go over the edge, is when their attitudes and thoughts toward God stumble, and they plunge out of control into an eternity without hope.

They had some light. They knew God. At one time every man alive knew God. At least twice in history this was true. Adam and Eve, in the garden and out. And Noah and his family, before, during, and after the flood. But then their descendants became careless in their worship.

Their worship became less than the light they had. When they knew God they glorified him not as God. They did not fear God or praise Him in proportion to the truth they possessed about Him. It is a dangerous thing for our worship to lag behind our knowledge of God. The flag has gotten way ahead of the regiment. Our knowledge of God is far greater than the praises we offer to Him.

There is a second step downward in verse 21. "Neither were thankful." The absence of gratitude to God goes hand in hand with man's failure to glorify Him. Worship sees God as high and lifted up, worthy of all praise and honour. He is Creator and Lifegiver. He is Lawgiver and King and Judge, all three branches of government in one Person. He is Father of Lights and Giver of gifts. He is Bread and Water, and Door and Shepherd. Above all, He is Lord and Saviour!

What could be more natural then, than for thanks to follow hard on the heels of praise? Praise draws out thanksgiving, so that stumbling tongues sing His praises and breath gives voice to joyful gratitude!

This verse alone records the history of mankind.

- On the one hand, much light, great praise, joyful gratitude with blessings to follow. That is the heritage of worshippers of God.
- Or, on the other hand, some light, no praise, ingratitude, and judgment to follow. That is the history of the nations that forget God.

Every once in a while we set aside our Wednesday night prayer meeting to be an ALL PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING time of prayer. Admittedly, it is very difficult to pray without asking God for anything, but simply thanking and praising Him for His Ways, His Will, His Works, and His Words. Why do we do this? We are trying to remedy those times when we fail to praise and thank our Heavenly Father.

Three years ago an airliner crashed into the Atlantic, killing 228 passengers and crew. The cause? The pilots did not respond correctly when vital instruments failed. They did not perceive the buffeting that preceeded the stall, or the stall when it occurred. The plane lost its airspeed until it could no longer fly and began dropping toward the sea. Still the pilots pulled back on the controls, optimistically expecting the airliner to

begin to climb. The engines were at full throttle. The pilots were experienced and qualified. And all on board died.

Many churches are approaching stall speed, if they are not already there. Others stalled years ago and are dropping off the radar. So convinced are their pastors that they know all they need to know about worship that they no longer even study the subject. Their worship has become so man-centred that any gratitude expressed is directed to pastors, to those who host the all glorious Leadership Conferences, and to those who lecture in their Bible colleges, to those who pastor the largest churches.

It takes time for an airliner or a church to descend from the lofty heights to the graves in the sea. Time is running out and the cold waves are very near.

If any pastor sets his heart to worship God in proportion to his knowledge of Him who has called us to glory and virtue he will find himself giving thanks to God. And if he teaches his people to give thanks, there is hope.

If we worship God truly in private, we will find we can worship Him in the pulpit as we preach.

There's nothing better than worshipful preaching!

Buddy Smith

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Welcome to the Website of Grace Baptist Church - Malanda, North Queensland, Australia



Grace
Baptist Church
MALANDA

On the Atherton Tablelands in Tropical North Queensland - Australia

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